

A
Thomas Gordon
SELECT COLLECTION

O F

ENGLISH PLAYS.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

CONTAINING

LADY JANE GRAY.		CONSCIOUS LOVERS.
JANE SHORE.		LOVE FOR LOVE.

EDINBURGH:

Printed for G. HAMILTON & J. BALFOUR;

M,DCC,LV.

1607 / 5453.



T H E
T R A G E D Y
O F
Lady JANE GRAY,

Written by NICHOLAS ROWE, Esq.

*Sed frustra leges et inania jura tuenti:
Scire mori sors optima.*

EDINBURGH:

Printed for G. HAMILTON, and J. BALFOUR.

M,DCC,LV.



T O

Her Royal Highness

The Princess of WALES.

MADAM,

A Princess of the same Royal blood to which you are so closely and so happily allied, presumes to throw herself at the feet of YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS for protection. The character of that excellent Lady, as it is deliver'd down to us in history, is very near the same with the picture I have endeavour'd to draw of her: and if, in the poetical colouring, I have aim'd at heightning and improving some of the features, it was only to make her more worthy of those illustrious hands to which I always intended to present her.

As the *British* nation in general is infinitely indebted to YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS; so every particular person amongst

US

iv DEDICATION.

us ought to contribute, according to their several capacities and abilities, towards the discharging that public obligation.

WE are your debtors, MADAM, for the preference you gave us, in chusing to wear the *British* rather than the *Imperial* crown; for giving the best daughter to our KING, and the best wife to our PRINCE. It is to YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS we owe the security that shall be deliver'd down to our children's children, by a most hopeful and beautiful as well as a numerous royal issue. These are the bonds of our civil duty: but YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS has laid us under others yet more sacred and engaging; I mean, those of religion. You are not only the brightest ornament, but the patroness and defender of our holy faith.

NOR is it *Britain* alone, but the world, but the present and all succeeding ages, who shall bless your royal name, for the greatest example that can be given of a disinterested piety and unshaken constancy.

This is what we may certainly reckon amongst the benefits YOUR ROYAL HIGH-

D E D I C A T I O N. v

HIGHNESS has conferr'd upon us. Tho' at the same time, how partial soever we may be to ourselves, we ought not to believe you declin'd the first crown of *Europe* in regard of *Britain* only. No, MADAM, it is in justice to YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS that we must confess, you had more excellent motives for so great an action as that was; since you did it in obedience to the dictates of reason and conscience, for the sake of true religion, and for the honour of God. All things that are great have been offer'd to you; and all things that are good and happy, as well in this world as a better, shall become the reward of such exalted virtue and piety. The blessings of our nation, the prayers of our church, with the faithful service of all good men, shall wait upon YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS as long as you live. And whenever, for the punishment of this land, you shall be taken from us, your sacred name shall be dear to remembrance, and Almighty God, who alone is able, shall bestow upon you the fulness of recompence.

AMONGST

AMONGST the several offerings of duty which are made to you here, be graciously pleased to accept of this unworthy trifle; which is, with the greatest respect and lowest submission, presented to YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, by,

MADAM,

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

Most obedient,

Most devoted, and

Most faithful

Humble Servant,

N. ROWE.

PROLOGUE,

Spoken by Mr. BOOTH.

*T*O Night the noblest Subject swells our Scene,
A Heroine, a Martyr, and a Queen;
And tho' the Poet dares not boast his Art,
The very Theme shall something great impart,
To warm the gen'rous Soul, and touch the tender Heart. }
To you, fair Judges, we the Cause submit;
Your Eyes shall tell us how the Tale is writ.
If your soft Pity waits upon our Woe,
If silent Tears for suff'ring Virtue flow;
Your Grief the Muse's Labour shall confess,
The lively Passions, and the just Distress.
Oh! cou'd our Author's Pencil justly paint,
Such as she was in Life, the beauteous Saint;
Boldly your strict Attention might we claim,
And bid you mark, and copy out the Dame.
No wand'ring Glance one wanton Thought confess'd,
No guilty Wish inflam'd her spotless Breast:
The only Love that warm'd her blooming Youth
Was Husband, England, Liberty, and Truth.
For these she fell; while, with too weak a Hand,
She strove to save a blind ungrateful Land.
But thus the secret Laws of Fate ordain;
William's great Hand was doom'd to break that chain, }
And end the Hopes of Rome's tyrannic Reign.
For ever, as the circling Years return,
Ye grateful Britons! crown the Hero's Urn;
To his just Care you ev'ry Blessing owe,
Which, or his own, or following Reigns bestow.
Tho' his hard Fate a Father's Name deny'd;
To you a Father, he that Loss supply'd.

Then

*Then while you view the Royal Line's Increase,
And count the Pledges of your future Peace;
From this great Stock while still new Glories come,
Conquest abroad, and Liberty at home;
While you behold the beautiful and brave,
Bright Princesses, to grace you, Kings to save,
Enjoy the Gift, but bless the Hand that gave.*

Dramatis Personæ.

M E N.

Duke of Northumberland,	<i>Mr. Mills.</i>
Duke of Suffolk,	<i>Mr. Bowman.</i>
Lord Guilford Dudley,	<i>Mr. Booth.</i>
Earl of Pembroke,	<i>Mr. Elrington.</i>
Earl of Suffex,	<i>Mr. Ryan.</i>
Gardiner Bishop of Winchester,	<i>Mr. Cibber.</i>
Sir John Gates,	<i>Mr. Shepherd.</i>
Lieutenant of the Tower,	<i>Mr. Quin.</i>

W O M E N.

Duchess of Suffolk,	<i>Mrs. Porter.</i>
Lady Jane Gray,	<i>Mrs. Oldfield.</i>

Lords of the Council, Gentlemen, Guards,
Women, and Attendants.



Lady JANE GRAY.

ACT I. SCENE I.

SCENE, *The Court.*

*Enter the Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND, Duke of
SUFFOLK, and Sir JOHN GATES.*

North. **T**IS all in vain; heaven has requir'd its
pledge,
And he must die.

Suff. Is there an honest heart,
That loves our *England*, does not mourn for *Edward*?
The genius of our isle is shook with sorrow,
He bows his venerable head with pain,
And labours with the sickness of his Lord.
Religion melts in ev'ry holy eye,
All comfortless, afflicted, and forlorn
She sits on earth, and weeps upon her cross,
Weary of man, and his detested ways:
Ev'n now she seems to meditate her flight,
And waft her angel to the thrones above.

North. Ay, there, my Lord, you touch our heaviest loss,
With him our holy faith is doom'd to suffer;
With him our church shall veil her sacred front,
That late from heaps of *Gothic* ruins rose
In her first native simple majesty;
The toil of saints, and price of martyrs blood,
Shall fail with *Edward*, and again *Old Rome*
Shall spread her banners; and her monkish host,

- B

Pride

Pride, ignorance and rapine, shall return ;
Blind bloody zeal, and cruel priestly power,
Shall scourge the land for ten dark ages more.

Sir *J. Gates*. Is there no help in all the healing art,
No potent juice or drug to save a life
So precious, and prevent a nation's fate ?

North. What has been left untry'd that art could do ?
The hoary wrinkled leech has watch'd and toil'd,
Try'd ev'ry health restoring herb and gum,
And weary'd out his painful skill in vain.
Close like a dragon folded in his den,
Some secret venom preys upon his heart ;
A stubborn and unconquerable flame
Creeps in his veins, and drinks the streams of life ;
His youthful sinews are unstrung, cold sweats,
And deadly paleness sit upon his visage,
And every gasp we look shall be his last.

Sir *J. Gates*. doubt not, your Graces, but the popish
faction
Will at this juncture urge their utmost force.
All on the Princess *Marry* turn their eyes,
Well hoping she shall build again their altars,
And bring their idol worship back in triumph.

Nor. Good heav'n ordain some better fate for *England* !

Suff. What better can we hope, if she should reign ?
I know her well, a blinded zealot is she,
A gloomy nature, fullen and severe,
Nurtur'd by proud presuming *Romish* priests,
Taught to believe they only cannot err,
Because they cannot err ; bred up in scorn
Of reason, and the whole lay-world instructed
To hate whoe're dissent from what they teach,
To purge the world from heresy by blood,
To massacre a nation, and believe it
An act well-pleasing to the Lord of mercy.
These are thy gods, O *Rome* ! and this thy faith.

North. And shall we tamely yield ourselves to bondage ?
Bow down before these holy purple tyrants,
And bid 'em tread upon our slavish necks ?

No ;

No; let this faithful free-born *English* hand,
First dig my grave in liberty and honour;
And tho' I found but one more thus resolv'd,
That honest man and I would die together.

Suff. Doubt not, there are ten thousand, and ten
thousand,

To own a cause so just.

Sir J. Gates. The list I gave
Into your Grace's hand last night, declares
My power and friends at full. [To Northumb.

North. Be it your care,
Good Sir *John Gates*, to see your friends appointed,
And ready for the occasion. Haste this instant,
Lose not a moment's time.

Sir J. Gates. I go, my Lord. [*Exit Sir J. Gates.*

North. Your Grace's princely daughter, *Lady Jane*,
Is she yet come to court?

Suff. Not arriv'd,
But with the soonest I expect her here.
I know her duty to the dying king,
Join'd with my strict commands to hasten hither,
Will bring her on the wing.

North. Beseech your Grace,
To speed another messenger to press her;
For on her happy presence all our counsels
Depend, and take their fate.

Suff. Upon the instant
Your Grace shall be obey'd. I go to summon her.
[*Exit Suff.*

North. What trivial influences hold dominion
O'er wise men's counsels, and the fate of empire?
The greatest schemes that human wit can forge,
Or bold ambition dares to put in practice,
Depend upon our husbanding a moment,
And the light lasting of a woman's will;
As if the Lord of nature shou'd delight
To hang this pond'rous globe upon a hair,
And bid it dance before a breath of wind.
She must be here, and lodg'd in *Guilford's* arms,

E'er

E'er *Edward* dies, or all we've done is marr'd.
 Ha! *Pembroke* that's a bar which thwarts my way
 His fiery temper brooks not opposition,
 And must be met with soft and supple arts,
 With croutching courtesy, and honey'd words,
 Such as assuage the fierce, and bend the strong.

Enter the Earl of PEMBROKE.

Good morrow noble *Pembroke*: we have staid
 The meeting of the council for your presence.

Pem. For mine, my Lord! you mock your servant, sure,
 To say that I am wanted, where yourself,
 The great *Alcides* of our state, is present,
 Whatever dangers menace prince or people,
 Our great *Northumberland* is arm'd to meet 'em;
 The ablest head, and firmest heart you bear,
 Nor need a second in the glorious task;
 Equal yourself to all the toil of empire.

North. No; as I honour virtue, I have try'd
 And know my strength too well! nor can the voice
 Of friendly flattery, like yours, deceive me.
 I know my temper liable to passions,
 And all the frailties common to our nature;
 Blind to events, too easy of persuasion,
 And often, too too often, have I err'd:
 Much therefore have I need of some good man,
 Some wise and honest heart, whose friendly aid
 Might guide my treading thro' our present dangers;
 And by the honour of my name I swear,
 I know not one of all our *English* peers,
 Whom I wou'd chuse for that best friend, like *Pembroke*.

Pem. What shall I answer to that trust so noble,
 This prodigality of praise and honour?
 Were not your Grace too generous of soul,
 To speak a language differing from your heart,
 How might I think you could not mean this goodness
 To one, whom his ill-fortune has ordain'd
 The rival of your son.

North. No more! I scorn a thought
 So much below the dignity of virtue.

'Tis

'Tis true, I look on *Guilford* like a father,
 Lean to his side, and see but half his failings:
 But on a point like this, when equal merit
 Stands forth to make its bold appeal to honour,
 And calls to have the balance held in justice;
 Away with all the fondnesses of nature!
 I judge of *Pembroke* and my son alike.

Pem. I ask no more to bind me to your service.

North. The realm is now at hazard, and bold factions
 Threaten change, tumult, and disastrous days.
 These fears drive out the gentler thoughts of joy,
 Of courtship, and of love. Grant, heav'n, the state
 To fix in peace and safety once again;
 Then speak your passion to the princely maid,
 And fair success attend you. For myself,
 My voice shall go as far for you, my Lord,
 As for my son, and beauty be the umpire.
 But now a heavier matter calls upon us;
 The King with life just lab'ring; and I fear,
 The council grow impatient at our stay.

Pem. One moment's pause, and I attend your Grace.

[Exit North.]

Old *Winchester* cries to me oft, beware
 Of proud *Northumberland*. The testy prelate,
 Froward with age, with disappointed hopes,
 And zealous for old *Rome*, rails on the Duke,
 Suspecting him to favour the new teachers:
 Yet ev'n in that, if I judge right, he errs.
 But were it so, what are these monkish quarrels,
 Those wordy wars of proud ill-manner'd school men,
 To us and our lay-interest? let 'em rail
 And worry one another at their pleasure.
 This Duke, of late, by many worthy offices,
 Has sought my friendship. And yet more, his son,
 The noblest youth our *England* has to boast of,
 The gentlest nature, and the bravest spirit,
 Has made me long the partner of his breast.
 Nay, when he found, in spite of the resistance
 My struggling heart had made, to do him justice,
 That

That I was grown his rival ; he strove hard,
And would not turn me forth from out his bosom,
But call'd me still his friend. And see ! he comes.

Enter Lord GUILFORD.

Oh, *Guilford* ! just as thou wer't ent'ring here,
My thought was running all thy virtues over,
And wondring how thy soul cou'd chuse a partner
So much unlike itself.

Guil. How could my tongue
Take pleasure, and be lavish in thy praise !
How could I speak thy nobleness of nature,
Thy open manly heart, thy courage, constancy,
And in-born truth unknowing to dissemble !
Thou art the man in whom my soul delights,
In whom, next heav'n, I trust.

Pem. Oh ! generous youth !
What can a heart, stubborn and fierce, like mine,
Return to all thy sweetness ? — Yet I wou'd,
I wou'd be grateful. — Oh ! my cruel fortune !
Wou'd I had never seen her, never cast
Mine eyes on *Suffolk's* daughter !

Guil. So wou'd I !
Since 'twas my fate to see and love her first.

Pem. Oh ! why shou'd she, that universal goodness,
Like light, a common blessing to the world,
Rise like a comet fatal to our friendship,
And threaten it with rain ?

Guil. Heaven forbid !
But tell me, *Pembroke*, is it not in virtue
To arm against this proud imperious passion ?
Does holy friendship dwell so near to envy,
She could not bear to see another happy,
If blind mistaken chance, and partial beauty
Should join to favour *Guilford* ?

Pem. Name it not,
My fiery spirits kindle at the thought,
And hurry me to rage.

Guil. And yet I think

I shou'd not murmur, were thy lot to prosper,
And mine to be refus'd. Tho' sure, the loss
Wou'd wound me to the heart.

Pem. Ha! could'st thou bear it?

And yet perhaps thou might'st: thy gentle temper
Is form'd with passions mix'd in due proportion,
Where no one over-bears nor plays the tyrant,
But join in nature's business and thy happiness:
While mine disdaining reason and her laws,
Like all thou canst imagine wild and furious,
Now drive me headlong on, now whirl me back,
And hurry my unstable flitting soul
To ev'ry mad extreme. Then pity me,
And let my weakness stand ———

Enter Sir JOHN GATES.

Sir J. Gates. The Lords of council
Wait with impatience. ———

Pem. I attend their pleasure.

This only, and no more then. Whatsoever
Fortune decrees, still let us call to mind
Our friendship and our honour. And since love
Condemns us to be rivals for one prize,
Let us contend, as friends and brave men ought,
With openness and justice to each other;
That he who wins the fair one to his arms,
May take her as the crown of great desert:
And if the wretched loser does repine,
His own heart and the world may all condemn him.

[Exit Pem.]

Guil. How cross the ways of life lie! while we think
We travel on direct in one high road,
And have our journey's end oppos'd in view,
A thousand thwarting paths break in upon us,
To puzzle and perplex our wand'ring steps.
Love, friendship, hatred, in their turns mislead us,
And ev'ry passion has its separate interest:
Where is that piercing foresight can unfold
Where all this mazy error will have end,

And

And tell the doom reserv'd for me and *Pembroke* ?
 There is but one end certain, that is — death :
 Yet ev'n that certainty is still uncertain.
 For of those several tracts which lie before us,
 We know that one leads certainly to death,
 But know not which that one is. 'Tis in vain,
 This blind divining ; let me think no more on't :
 And see the mistress of our fate appear !

Enter Lady JANE GRAY ; Attendants.

Hail, princely maid ! who with auspicious beauty
 Cheer'st ev'ry drooping heart in this sad place ;
 Who, like the silver regent of the night,
 Lift'st up thy sacred beams upon the land,
 To bid the gloom look gay, dispel our horrors,
 And make us less lament the setting sun.

L. J. Gray. Yes, *Guilford* ; well dost thou compare
 my presence

To the faint comforts of the waning moon :
 Like her old orb, a cheerless gleam I bring,
 Silence and heaviness of heart, with dews
 To dress the face of nature all in tears.
 But say, how fares the King ?

Guil. He lives as yet,
 But ev'ry moment cuts away a hope,
 Amidst our fears, and gives the infant-faint
 Great prospect of his op'ning heaven.

L. J. Gray. Descend ye choirs of angels to receive him,
 Tune your melodious harps to some high strain,
 And waft him upwards with a song of triumph :
 A purer soul, and one more like yourselves,
 Ne'er enter'd at the golden gates of bliss.

Oh, *Guilford* ! what remains for wretched *England*,
 When he our guardian-angel, shall forsake us ?
 For whose dear sake heav'n spar'd a guilty land,
 And scatter'd not its plagues while *Edward* reign'd.

Guil. I own my heart bleeds inward at the thought,
 And rising horrors crowd the op'ning scene.
 And yet, forgive me, thou, my native country,

Thou

Thou land of liberty, thou nurse of heroes,
 Forgive me, if in spite of all thy dangers,
 New springs of pleasure flow within my bosom,
 When thus 'tis giv'n me to behold those eyes,
 Thus gaze and wonder, how excelling nature
 Can give each day new patterns of her skill,
 And yet at once surpass 'em.

L. J. Gray. Oh, vain flattery !
 Harsh and ill-sounding ever to my ear ;
 But on a day like this, the raven's note
 Strikes on my sense more sweetly. But, no more,
 I charge thee touch the ungrateful theme no more ;
 Lead me, to pay my duty to the King,
 To wet his pale cold hand with these last tears,
 And share the blessings of his parting breath.

Guil. Were I like dying *Edward*, sure a touch
 Of this dear hand wou'd kindle life anew.
 But I obey, I dread that gath'ring frown ;
 And oh ! when'er my bosom swells with passion,
 And my full heart is pain'd with ardent love,
 Allow me but to look on you, and sigh ;
 'Tis all the humble joy that *Guilford* asks.

L. J. Gray. Still wilt thou frame thy speech to this vain
 purpose,
 When the wan king of terrors stalks before us,
 When universal ruin gathers round,
 And no escape is left us ? Are we not
 Like wretches in a storm, whom ev'ry moment
 The greedy deep is gaping to devour ?
 Around us see the pale despairing crew
 Wring their sad hands, and give their labour over ;
 The hope of life has ev'ry heart forsook,
 And horror sits on each distracted look ;
 One solemn thought of death does all employ,
 And cancels, like a dream, delight and joy ;
 One sorrow streams from all their weeping eyes
 And one consenting voice for mercy cries ;

C

Trembling,

Trembling, they dread just heav'n's avenging power,
Mourn their past lives, and wait the fatal hour.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT II. SCENE I.

SCENE *continues.*

*Enter the Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND, and the Duke
of SUFFOLK.*

North. YET then be chear'd my heart amidst thy
mourning.

Tho' fate hang heavy o'er us, tho' pale fear
And wild distraction sit on ev'ry face;
Tho' never day of grief was known like this,
Let me rejoice, and blis the hallow'd light,
Whose beams auspicious shine upon our union,
And bid me call the noble *Suffolk* brother.

Suff. I know not what my secret soul presages,
But something seems to whisper me within,
That we have been too hasty. For myself,
I wish this matter had been yet delay'd;
That we had waited some more blessed time,
Some better day with happier omens hallow'd,
For love to kindle up his holy flame.
But you, my noble brother, wou'd prevail,
And I have yielded to you.

North. Doubt not any thing;
Nor hold the hour unlucky, that good heav'n,
Who softens the corrections of his hand,
And mixes still a comfort with afflictions,
Has giv'n to-day a blessing in our children,
To wipe away our tears for dying *Edward*.

Suff. In that I trust. Good angels be our guard,
And make my fears prove vain. But see! My wife!
With her, your son, the generous *Guilford* comes;
She has inform'd him of our present purpose.

Enter

Enter the Duchess of Suffolk, and Lord Guilford.

L. Gut. How shall I speak the fullness of my heart?
What shall I say, to bets you for this goodness?
Oh! gracious Princess! But my life is yours,
And all the business of my years to come,
Is, to attend with humblest duty on you,
And pay my vow'd obedience at your feet.

Duch. Suff. Yes, noble youth, I share in all thy joys;
In all the joys which this sad day can give.
The dear delight I have to call thee son,
Comes like a cordial to my drooping spirits;
It broods with gentle warmth upon my bosom,
And melts that frost of death which hung about me.
But haste! Inform my daughter of our pleasure:
Let thy tongue put on all its pleasing eloquence,
Instruct thy love to speak of comfort to her,
To sooth her griefs, and cheer the mourning maid.

North. All desolate and drown'd in flowing tears,
By *Edward's* bed the pious Princess sits;
Fast from her lifted eyes the pearly drops
Fall trickling o'er her cheek, while holy ardour,
And fervent zeal pour forth her lab'ring soul;
And ev'ry sigh is wing'd with pray'rs so potent,
As strive with heav'n to save her dying Lord.

Duch. Suff. From the first early days of infant-life,
A gentle band of friendship grew betwixt 'em;
And while our royal uncle *Henry* reign'd,
As brother and as sister bred together,
Beneath one common parent's care they liv'd.

North. A wondrous sympathy of souls conspir'd
To form the sacred union. *Lady Jane,*
Of all his royal blood was still the dearest;
In ev'ry innocent delight they shar'd,
They sung, and danc'd, and sat, and walk'd together;
Nay, in the graver business of his youth,
When books and learning call'd him from his sports,
Ev'n there the princely maid was his companion.
She left the shining court to share his toil,

To

To turn with him the grave historian's page,
And taste the rapture of the poet's song;
To search the *Latin* and the *Grecian* stores,
And wonder at the mighty minds of old.

Enter Lady JANE GRAY, weeping.

L. J. Gray. Wo't thou not break, my heart——

Suff. Alas! What mean'st thou?

Guil. Oh, speak!

Duch. Suff. How fares the King?

North. Say, is he dead?

L. J. Gray. The saints and angels have him.

Duch. Suff. When I left him,

He seem'd a little chear'd, just as you enter'd.——

L. J. Gray. As I approach'd to kneel and pay my duty,

He rais'd his feeble eyes, and faintly smiling,

Aro you then come? he cry'd: I only liv'd,

To bid farewell to thee, my gentle cousin,

To speak a few short words to thee, and die.

With that he press'd my hand, and oh!—he said,

When I am gone, do thou be good to *England*;

Keep to that faith in which we both were bred,

And to the end be constant. More I wou'd,

But cannot.——There his faltering spirits fail'd.

And turning ev'ry thought from earth at once,

To that blest place where all his hopes were fixt

Earnest he pray'd;——Merciful, great Defender!

Preserve thy holy altars undefil'd,

Protect this *land* from bloody men and idols,

Save my poor people from the yoke of *Rome*,

And take thy painful servant to thy mercy,

Then sinking on his pillow, with a sigh,

He breath'd his innocent and faithful soul

Into his hands who gave it.

Guil. Crowns of glory,

Such as the brightest angels wear, be on him:

Peace guard his ashes here, and paradise

With all its endless bliss be open to him.

North.

North. Our grief be on his grave. Our present duty
Enjoins to see his last commands obey'd.
I hold it fit his death be not made known
To any but our friends. To-morrow early
The counsel shall assemble at the *Tower*.
Mean while, I beg your Grace wou'd strait inform
[*To the Duchess of Suffolk.*

Your princely daughter of our resolution;
Our common interest in that happy tie,
Demands our swiftest care to see it finish'd.

D. Suff. My Lord, you have determin'd well. *Lord*
Guilford,

Be it your task to speak at large our purpose.
Daughter, receive this Lord as one whom I,
Your father, and his own, ordain your husband:
What more concerns our will and your obedience,
We leave you to receive from him at leisure.

[*Exeunt Duke and Duchess of Suffolk, and*
Duke of Northumberland.

Guil. Wo't thou not spare a moment from thy sorrows,
And bid these bubbling streams forbear to flow?
Wo't thou not give one interval to joy,
One little pause, while humbly I unfold
The happiest tale my tongue was ever blest with?

L. J. Gray. My heart is cold within me, ev'ry sense
Is dead to joy; but I will hear thee, *Guilford*.
Nay, I must hear thee, such is her command,
Whom early duty taught me still t' obey.
But, oh! forgive me, if to all thy story,
Tho' eloquence divine attend thy speaking,
Tho' ev'ry muse and ev'ry grace do crown thee,
Forgive me, if I cannot better answer,
Than weeping——thus, and thus——

Guil. If I offend thee,
Let me be dumb for ever; let not life
Inform these breathing organs of my voice,
If any sound from me disturb thy quiet.
What is my peace or happiness to thine?
No; tho' our noble parents had decree'd,

And

And urg'd high reasons which import the state,
This night to give thee to my faithful arms,
My fairest bride, my only earthly bliss. —

L. J. Gray. How! *Guilford!* On this night?

Guil. This happy night.

Yet if thou art resolv'd to cross my fate,
If this my utmost wish shall give thee pain,
Now rather let the stroke of death fall on me,
And stretch me out a lifeless corse before thee:
Let me be swept away with things forgotten,
Be huddl'd up in some obscure blind grave,
E'er thou should'st say my love has made thee wretched,
Or drop one single tear for *Guilford's* sake.

L. J. Gray. Alas! I have too much of death already,
And want not thine to furnish out new horror,
Oh! dreadful thought, if thou wert dead indeed,
What hope were left me then? Yes, I will own,
Spite of the blush that burns my maiden-cheek,
My heart has fondly lean'd toward thee long:
Thy sweetness, virtue, and unblemish'd youth,
Have won a place for thee within my bosom:
And if my eyes look coldly on thee now,
And shun thy love on this disastrous day;
It is because I wou'd not deal so hardly,
To give thee sighs for all thy faithful vows,
And pay thy tenderness with nought but tears.
And yet 'tis all I have.

Guil. I ask no more;

Let me but call thee mine, confirm that hope,
To charm the doubts which vex my anxious soul;
For all the rest, do thou allot it for me,
And at thy pleasure portion out my blessings,
My eyes shall learn to smile or weep from thine,
Nor will I think of joy while thou art sad.
Nay, could'st thou be so cruel to command it,
I will forego a bridegroom's sacred right,
And sleep far from thee, on th' unwholesom earth,
Where damps arise, and whistling winds blow loud.
Then when the day returns, come drooping to thee,

My

My locks still drizzling with the dews of night,
And cheer my heart with thee as with the morning.

L. J. Gray. Say, wo't thou consecrate the night to
sorrow,

And give up ev'ry sense to solemn sadness?

Wo't thou, in watching, waste the tedious hours,

Sit silently and careful by my side,

Listen to the tolling clocks, the cricket's cry,

And ev'ry melancholy midnight noise?

Say, wo't thou banish pleasure and delight?

Wo't thou forget that ever we have lov'd,

And only now and then let fall a tear,

To mourn for *Edward's* loss, and *England's* fate?

Guil. Unweary'd still, I will attend thy woes,

And be a very faithful partner to thee.

Near thee I will complain in sighs as numberless,

As murmurs breathing in the leafy grove:

My eyes shall mix their falling drops with thine,

Constant, as never ceasing waters roll,

That purl and gurgle o'er their sand for ever.

The sun shall see my grief, thro' all his course;

And when night comes, sad *Pilomel*, who plains

From starry vesper to the rosy dawn,

Shall cease to tune her lamentable song,

E'er I give o'er to weep and mourn with thee.

L. J. Gray. Here then I take thee to my heart forever,
[Giving her hand.]

The dear companion of my future days:

Whatever providence allots for each,

Be that the common portion of us both;

Share all the griefs of thy unhappy, *Jane*:

But if good heav'n have any joys in store,

Let that be all thy own.

Guil. Thou wondrous goodness!

Heav'n gives too much at once in giving thee.

And by the common course of things below,

Where each delight is temper'd with affliction,

Some evil terrible and unforeseen

Must sure ensue, to poise the scale against

This

This fast profusion of exceeding pleasure.
But be it so, let it be death and ruin,
On any terms I take thee.

L. *J. Gray*. Trust our fate
To Him whose gracious wisdom guides our ways,
And makes what we think evil turn to good.
Permit me now to leave thee and retire ;
I'll summon all my reason and my duty,
To sooth this storm within, and frame my heart
To yield obedience to my noble parents.

Guil. Good angels minister their comforts to thee.
And, oh, if, as my fond belief wou'd hope,
If any word of mine be gracious to thee,
I beg thee, I conjure thee, drive away
Those murd'rous thoughts of grief that kill thy quiet.
Restore thy gentle bosom's native peace,
Lift up the light of gladness in thy eyes,
And chear my heaviness with one dear smile.

L. *J. Gray*. Yes, *Guilford*, I will study to forget
All that the royal *Edward* has been to me,
How we have lov'd, ev'n from our very cradles.
My private loss no longer will I mourn,
But ev'ry tender thought to thee shall turn :
With patience I'll submit to heav'n's decree,
And what I lost in *Edward*, find in thee.
But oh ! when I revolve what ruins wait
Our sinking altars, and the falling state ;
When I consider what my native land
Expected from her pious sov'reign's hand ;
How form'd he was to save her from distress,
A king to govern, and a saint to bless ;
New sorrow to my lab'ring breast succeeds,
And my whole heart for wretched *England* bleeds.

[*Exit Lady Jane Gray*.]

Guil. My heart sinks in me. at her soft complaining ;
And ev'ry moving accent that she breathes,
Resolves my courage, slackens my rough nerves,
And melts me down to infancy and tears.
My fancy palls, and takes distaste at pleasure ;

My

My soul grows out of tune, it loaths the world,
 Sickens at all the noise and folly of it ;
 And I cou'd sit me down in some dull shade.
 Where lonely contemplation keeps her cave,
 And dwells with hoary hermits ; there forget myself,
 There fix my stupid eyes upon the earth,
 And muse away an age in deepest melancholy.

Enter PEMBROKE.

Pem. Edward is dead ; so said the great Northumberland,

As now he shot along by me in haste.
 He press'd my hand, and in a whisper begg'd me
 To guard the secret carefully as life,
 Till some few hours shou'd pass ; for much hung on it.
 Much may indeed hang on it. See my Guilford !
 My friend ! *[Speaking to him.]*

Guil. Ha ! Pembroke ! *[Starting.]*

Pem. Wherefore dost thou start ?
 Why sits that wild disorder on thy visage,
 Somewhat that looks like passions strange to thee,
 The paleness of surprize and ghastly fear ?
 Since I have known thee first, and call'd thee friend,
 I never saw thee so unlike thyself,
 So chang'd upon a sudden.

Guil. How ! so chang'd !

Pem. So to my eye thou seem'st.

Guil. The King is dead.

Pem. I learn'd it from thy father,
 Just as I enter'd here. But say, cou'd that,
 A fate which ev'ry moment we expected,
 Distract thy thought, or shock thy temper thus ?

Guil. Oh, Pembroke ! 'tis in vain to hide from thee ;
 For thou hast look'd into my artless bosom,
 And seen at once the hurry of my soul.
 'Tis true thy coming struck me with surprize,
 I have a thought—but wherefore said I one ?
 I have a thousand thoughts all up in arms,
 Like pop'lous towns disturb'd at dead of night,

D

That

That mixt in darkness, bustle to and fro,
As if their business were to make confusion.

Pem. Then sure our better angels call'd me hither;
For this is friendship's hour, and friendship's office,
To come when counsel and when help is wanting,
To share the pain of every gnawing care,
To speak of comfort in the time of trouble,
To reach a hand and save thee from adversity.

Guil. And wo't thou be a friend to me indeed?
And while I lay my bosom bare before thee,
Wo't thou deal tenderly, and let my hand
Pass gently over ev'ry painful part?
Wo't thou with patience hear, and judge with temper?
And if perchance thou meet with somewhat harsh,
Somewhat to rouse thy rage, and grate thy soul,
Wo't thou be master of thyself and bear it?

Pem. Away with all this needless preparation!
Thou know'st thou art so dear, so sacred to me,
That I can never think thee an offender.
If it were so, that I indeed must judge thee,
I shou'd take part with thee against myself,
And call thy fault a virtue.

Guil. But suppose
The thought were somewhat that concern'd our love.

Pem. No more; thou know'st we spoke of that to-day,
And on what terms we left it. 'Tis a subject,
Of which, if possible, I wou'd not think;
I beg that we may mention it no more.

Guil. Can we not speak of it with temper?

Pem. No.

Thou know'st I cannot. Therefore, prithee spare it.

Guil. Oh! cou'd the secret, I wou'd tell thee, sleep,
And the world never know it, my fond tongue
Shou'd cease from speaking, e'er I wou'd unfold it,
Or vex thy peace with an officious tale.
But since, howe'er ungrateful to thy ear,
It must be told thee once, hear it from me.

Pem.

Pem. Speak then, and ease the doubts that shock my soul.

Guil. Suppose thy *Guilford's* better stars prevail,
And crown his love——

Pem. Say not, suppose: 'tis done,
Seek not for vain excuse, or soft'ning words;
Thou hast prevaricated with thy friend,
By under-hand contrivances undone me:
And while my open nature trusted in thee,
Thou hast stepp'd in between me and my hopes,
And ravish'd from me all my soul held dear.
Thou hast betray'd me——

Guil. How! betray'd thee, *Pembroke*?

Pem. Yes, falsely, like a traitor.

Guil. Have a care.

Pem. But think not I will bear the foul play from thee;

There was but this, which I could ne'er forgive.
My soul is up in arms, my injur'd honour,
Impatient of the wrong calls for revenge;
And tho' I love thee——fondly——

Guil. Hear me yet,
And *Pembroke* shall acquit me to himself.
Hear, while I tell how fortune dealt between us,
And gave the yielding beauty to my arms——

Pem. What, hear it! Stand and listen to thy triumph!
Thou think'st me tame indeed. No, hold, I charge thee,
Lest I forget that ever we were friends,
Lest in the rage of disappointed love,
I rush at once and tear thee for thy falsehood.

Guil. Thou warn'st me well; and I were rash, as thou art,

To trust the secret sum of all my happiness
With one not master of himself. Farewell. *Going.*

Pem. Ha! art thou going? Think not thus to part,
Nor leave me on the rack of this uncertainty.

Guil. What woud'st thou further?

Pem. Tell it to me all;
Say thou art marry'd, say thou hast possess'd her,
And

And rioted in vast excess of bliss ;
 That I may curse myself, and thee, and her.
 Come, tell me how thou didst supplant thy friend ?
 How didst thou look with that betraying face,
 And smiling plot my ruin ?

Guil. Give me way,
 When thou art better temper'd, I may tell thee,
 And vindicate at full my love and friendship.

Pem. And dost thou hope to shun me then, thou traitor !

No, I will have it now, this moment from thee,
 Or drag the secret out from thy false heart.

Guil. Away, thou madman ! I wou'd talk to winds,
 And reason with the rude tempestuous surge,
 Sooner than hold discourse with rage like thine.

Pem. Tell it, or by my injur'd love I swear,
 [*Laying his hand upon his sword.*

I'll stab the lurking treason in thy heart.

Guil. Ha ! Stay thee there ; nor let thy frantic hand
 (*Stopping him.*)

Unsheath thy weapon. If the sword be drawn,
 If once we meet on terms like those, farewell
 To ev'ry thought of friendship ; one must fall.

Pem. Curse on thy friendship ; I wou'd break the band.

Guil. That as you please—Beside, this place is sacred,
 And wo'not be profan'd with brawls and outrage.
 You know, I dare be found on any summons.

Pem. 'Tis well. My vengeance shall not loiter long,
 Henceforward let the thoughts of our past lives
 Be turn'd to deadly and remorseless hate.
 Here I give up the empty name of friend,
 Renounce all gentleness, all commerce with thee,
 To death defy thee as my mortal foe ;
 And when we meet again, may swift destruction
 Rid me of thee, or rid me of myself [*Exit Pembroke.*

Guil. The fate I ever fear'd, is fall'n upon me ;
 And long ago my boding heart divin'd
 A breach, like this, from his ungovern'd rage.
 Oh, *Pembroke* ! thou hast done me much injustice,

For

For I have borne thee true unfeign'd affection ;
 'Tis past, and thou art lost to me for ever.
 Love is, or ought to be, our greatest bliss ;
 Since ev'ry other joy, how dear soever,
 Gives way to that, and we leave all for love.
 At the imperious tyrant's lordly call,
 In spite of reason and restraint we come.
 Leave kindred, parents, and our native home.
 The trembling maid, with all her fears, he charms,
 And pulls her from her weeping mother's arms :
 He laughs at all her leagues, and in proud scorn
 Commands the bands of friendship to be torn ;
 Disdains a partner should partake his throne,
 But reigns unbounded, lawless, and alone. *[Exit.]*

A C T III. S C E N E I.

SCENE, *The Tower.**Enter PEMBROKE and GARDINER.*

Gar. **N**AY, by the rood, my Lord, you were to
 blame,

To let a hair-brain'd passion be your guide,
 And hurry you into such mad extremes,
 Marry, you might have made much worthy profit,
 By patient hearing ; the unthinking Lord
 Had brought forth ev'ry secret of his soul.
 Then when you were the master of his bosom,
 That were the time to use him with contempt,
 And turn his friendship back upon his hands.

Pem. Thou talk'st as if a madman cou'd be wise.

Oh, *Winchester* ! thy hoary frozen age
 Can never guess my pain ; can never know
 The burning transports of untam'd desire.
 I tell thee, rev'rend Lord, to that one bliss,
 To the enjoyment of that lovely maid,

As

As to their centre, I had drawn each hope,
 And ev'ry wish my furious soul cou'd form;
 Still with regard to that my brain forethought,
 And fashion'd ev'ry action of my life.
 Then, to be robb'd at once, and unsuspecting,
 Be dash'd in all the height of expectation!
 It was not to be borne.

Gar. Have you not hear'd of what has happen'd
 since?

Pem. I have not had a minute's peace of mind,
 A moment's pause, to rest from rage, or think.

Gar. Learn it from me then: but e'er I speak,
 I warn you to be master of yourself.
 Though, as you know, they have confin'd me long,
 Gra'mercy to their goodness, pris'ner here;
 Yet as I am allow'd to walk at large
 Within the *Tower*, and hold free speech with any,
 I have not dreamt away my thoughtless hours,
 Without good heed to these our righteous rulers.
 To prove this true, this morn a trusty spy
 Has brought me word, that yester ev'ning late,
 In spite of all the grief for *Edward's* death,
 Your friends were marry'd.

Pem. Marry'd! who?—damnation!

Gar. Lord *Guilford Dudley*, and the Lady *JANE*.

Pem. Curse on my stars!

Gar. Nay, in the name of grace,
 Restrain this sinful passion; all's not lost
 In this one single woman.

Pem. I have lost
 More than the female world can give me back.
 I had beheld, even her whole sex, unmov'd,
 Look'd o'er 'em like a bed of gaudy flowers,
 That lift their painted heads, and live a day,
 Then shed their trifling glories unregarded:
 My heart disdain'd their beauties, till she came,
 With ev'ry grace that nature's hand could give,
 And with a mind so great, it spoke its essence
 Immortal and divine.

Gar.

Gar. She was a wonder ;
Detraction must allow that.

Pem. The virtuous came,
Stor'd in gentle fellowship, to crown her,
As if they meant to mend each other's work.
Candour with goodness, fortitude with sweetness,
Strict piety, and love of truth, with learning,
More than the schools of *Athens* ever knew,
Or her own *Plato* taught. A wonder ! *Winchester* !
Thou know'st not what she was, nor can I speak her,
More than to say, she was that-only blessing
My soul was set upon, and I have lost her.

Gar. Your state is not so bad as you would make it ;
Nor need you thus abandon ev'ry hope.

Pem. Ha ! wo't thou save me, snatch me from de-
spair,
And bid me live again.

Gar. She may be yours.
Suppose her husband die.

Pem. O vain, vain hope !

Gar. Marry, I do not hold that hope so vain.
These gospellers have had their golden days,
And lorded it at will ; with proud despise,
Have trodden down our holy *Roman* faith,
Ransack'd our shrines, and driv'n her saints to exile.
But if my divination fail me not,
Their haughty hearts shall be abas'd e'er long,
And feel the vengeance of our *Mary's* reign.

Pem. And wouldst thou have my fierce impatience
stay ?

Bid me lie bound upon a rack, and wait
For distant joys, whole ages yet behind ?
Can love attend on politician's schemes,
Expect the slow events of cautious counsels,
Cold unresolving heads, and creeping time ?

Gar. To day, or I am ill-inform'd, *Northumber-*
land,

With easy *Suffolk*, *Guilford*, and the rest,
Meet here in council on some deep design,

Some

Some traiterous contrivance, to protect
 Their upstart faith from near approaching ruin.
 But there are punishments——halters and axes
 For traytors, and consuming flames for heretics :
 The happy bridegroom may be yet cut short,
 Ev'n in his highest hope——but go not you ;
 Howe'er the fauning fire, old *Dudley*, court you ;
 No, by the holy rood, I charge you, mix not
 With their pernicious counsels.—Mischiéf waits 'em,
 Sure, certain, unavoidable destruction.

Pem. Ha ! join with them ! the cursed '*Dudley's*
 race !

Who, while they held me in their arms, betray'd me ;
 Scorn'd me for not suspecting they were villains,
 And make a mock'ry of my easy friendship.
 No, when I do, dishonour be my portion,
 And swift perdition catch me ;——join with them !

Gar. I wou'd not have you——Hie you to the city,
 And join with those that love our ancient faith.
 Gather your friends about you, and be ready
 T'assert our zealous *Mary's* royal title,
 And doubt not but her grateful hand shall give you
 To see your soul's desire upon your enemies.
 The church shall pour her ample treasures forth too,
 And pay you with ten thousand years of pardon.

Pem. No ; keep your blessings back, and give me
 vengeance,

Give me to tell that soft deceiver *Guilford*,
 Thus, traytor, hast thou done, thus hast thou wrong'd
 me,

And thus thy treason finds a just reward.

Gar. But soft ! no more ! the Lords o'th' council
 come.

Ha ! by the mass, the bride and bridegroom too !
 Retire with me, my Lord ; we must not meet 'em.

Pem. 'Tis they themselves, the cursed happy pair !
 Hast, *Winchester*, haste ! let us fly for ever,
 And drive her from my very thoughts, if possible.
 Oh ! Love, what have I lost !——oh, rev'rend Lord !

Pity

Pity this fond, this foolish weakness in me.
 Methinks, I go like our first wretched father,
 When from his blissful garden he was driven:
 Like me he went despairing, and like me,
 Thus at the gate stop'd short for one last view;
 Then with the chearless partner of his woe,
 He turn'd him to the world that lay below:
 There, for his *Eden's* happy plains, beheld
 A barren, wild, uncomfortable field;
 He saw 'twas vain the ruin to deplore,
 He try'd to give the sad remembrance o'er;
 The sad remembrance still return'd again,
 And his lost paradise renew'd his pain.

[*Exeunt* Pembroke and Gardiner.]

Enter Lord GUILFORD, and Lady JANE.

Guil. What shall I say to thee! what power divine
 Will teach my tongue to tell thee what I feel?
 To pour the transports of my bosom forth,
 And make thee partner of the joy dwells there?
 For thou art comfortless, full of affliction,
 Heavy of heart as the forsaken widow,
 And desolate as orphans. Oh, my fair one!
 Thy *Edward* shines amongst the brightest stars,
 And yet thy sorrows seek him in the grave.

L. J. Gray. Alas, my dearest Lord! a thousand
 griefs

Beset my anxious heart; and yet, as if
 The burthen were too little, I have added
 The weight of all thy cares; and like the miser,
 Increase of wealth has made me but more wretched.
 The morning-light seems not to rise as usual,
 It dawns not to me, like my virgin-days,
 But brings new thoughts and other fears upon me;
 I tremble, and my anxious heart is pain'd,
 Left aught but good shou'd happen to my *Guilford*.

Guil. Nothing but good can happen to thy *Guilford*,
 While thou art by his side, his better angel,
 His blessing and his guard.

E

L.

L. *J. Gray*. Why came we hither ?
 Why was I drawn to this unlucky place,
 This *Tower*, so often stain'd with royal blood ?
 Here the fourth *Edward's* helpless sons were murder'd,
 And pious *Henry* fell by ruthless *Gloster* :
 Is this the place allotted for rejoicing ?
 The bow'r adorn'd to keep her nuptial feast in ?
 Methinks suspicion and distrust dwell here,
 Staring with meagre forms thro' grated windows ;
 Death lurks within, and unrelenting punishment ;
 Without, grim danger, fear, and fiercest power
 Sit on the rude old tow'rs, and *Gothic* battlements :
 While horror overlooks the dreadful wall,
 And frowns on all around.

Guil. In safety here,
 The lords o'th' council have this morn decree'd
 To meet, and with united care support
 The feeble tottering state. To thee, my Princess,
 Whose royal veins are rich in *Henry's* blood,
 With one consent the noblest heads are bow'd :
 From thee they ask a sanction to their counsels,
 And from thy healing hand expect a cure,
 For *England's* loss in *Edward*.

L. *J. Gray*. How ! from me !
 Alas, my Lord—but sure, thou mean'st to mock me ?

Guil. No ; by the love my faithful heart is full of !
 But see, thy mother, gracious *Suffolk*, comes
 To intercept my story : she shall tell thee ;
 For in her look I read the lab'ring thought,
 What vast event thy fate is now disclosing.

Enter the Duchess of Suffolk.

D. *Suff.* No more complain, indulge thy tears no more,

Thy pious grief has giv'n the grave its due ;
 Let thy heart kindle with the highest hopes ;
 Expand thy bosom, let thy soul enlarg'd
 Make room to entertain the coming glory !
 For majesty and purple, greatness court thee ;

Homage

Homage and low subjection wait: a crown,
That makes the princes of the earth like gods;
A crown, my daughter, *England's* crown attends,
To bind thy brows with its imperial wreath.

L. *J. Gray*. Amazement chills my veins! what says
my mother?

D. *Suff*. 'Tis heav'n's decree; for our expiring *Ed-*
ward,

When now, just struggling to his native skies,
Ev'n on the verge of heav'n, in sight of angels,
That hover'd round to waft him to the stars,
Ev'n then declar'd my JANE his successor.

L. *J. Gray*. Cou'd *Edward* do this? cou'd the dying
faint

Bequeath his crown to me? Oh, fatal bounty!
To me! but 'tis impossible! we dream.
A thousand and a thousand bars oppose me,
Rise in my way, and intercept my passage.
Ev'n you, my gracious mother, what must you be,
E'er I can be a queen?

D. *Suff*. That, and that only,
Thy mother; fonder of that tender name,
Than all the proud additions pow'r can give.
Yes, I will give up all my share of greatness,
And live in low obscurity for ever,
To see thee rais'd, thou darling of my heart,
And fixt upon a throne. But see; thy father,
Northumberland with all the council, come
To pay their vow'd allegiance at thy feet,
To kneel, and call thee Queen.

L. *J. Gray*. Support me, *Guilford*;
Give me thy aid: stay thou my fainting soul,
And help me to repress this growing danger.

Enter SUFFOLK, NORTHUMBERLAND, Lords, and
others of the Privy-Council.

North. Hail, sacred Princess! sprung from ancient
kings,
Our *England's* dearest hope, undoubted offspring

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Our *England's* dearest hope, undoubted offspring

Of *York* and *Lancaster's* united line ;
 By whose bright zeal, by whose victorious faith,
 Guarded and fenc'd around, our pure religion,
 That lamp of truth which shines upon our altars,
 Shall lift its golden head, and flourish long ;
 Beneath whose awful rule, and righteous sceptre,
 The plenteous years shall roll in long succession ;
 Law shall prevail, and ancient right take place,
 Fair liberty shall lift her chearful head,
 Fearless of tyranny and proud oppression ;
 No sad complaining in our streets shall cry,
 But justice shall be exercis'd in mercy.
 Hail, royal JANE ! behold, we bend our knees,

[*They kneel.*]

The pledge of homage, and thy Land's obedience ;
 With humblest duty thus we kneel, and own thee
 Our Liege, our sovereign Lady, and our Queen.

L. *J. Gray.* Oh, rise !

My father, rise !

[*To Suff.*]

And you my father, too !

[*To North.*]

Rise all, nor cover me with this confusion. [*They rise.*]

What means this mock, this masquing shew of greatness ?

Why do you hang these pageant glories on me,
 And dress me up in honours not my own ?

North. The daughters of our late great master *Henry*,
 Stand both by law excluded from succession.

To make all firm,

And fix a pow'r unquestion'd in your hand,

Edward, by will, bequeath'd his crown to you ;

And the concurring lords in council met,

Have ratified the gift.

L. *J. Gray.* Are crowns and empire,

The government and safety of mankind,

Trifles of such light moment, to be left

Like some rich toy, a ring, or fancy'd gem,

The pledge of parting friends ? Can kings do thus ?

And give away a people for a legacy,

North.

North. Forgive me, princely Lady, if my wonder
 Seizes each sense, each faculty of mind,
 To see the utmost wish the great can form,
 A crown, thus coldly met: a crown! which flighted,
 And left in scorn by you, shall soon be fought,
 And find a joyful wearer; one perhaps,
 Of blood, unkindred to your royal house,
 And fix its glories in another line.

L. J. Gray. Where art thou now, thou partner of
 my cares? [Turning to Guilford.]
 Come to my aid, and help to bear this burthen:
 Oh! save me from this sorrow, this misfortune,
 Which in the shape of gorgeous greatness comes
 To crown, and makes a wretch of me for ever.

Guil. Thou weep'st, my Queen, and hang'st thy droop-
 ing head,
 Like nodding poppies, heavy with the rain,
 That bow their weary necks, and bend to earth.
 See, by thy side, thy faithful *Guilford* stands
 Prepar'd to keep distress and danger from thee,
 To wear thy sacred cause upon his sword,
 And war against the world in thy defence.

North. Oh! stay this inauspicious stream of tears,
 And cheer your people with one gracious smile.
 Nor comes your fate in such a dreadful form,
 To bid you shun it. Turn those sacred eyes
 On the bright prospect empire spreads before you.
 Methinks I see you seated on the throne;
 Beneath your feet the kingdom's great degrees
 In bright confusion shine, mitres and coronets,
 The various ermin, and the glowing purple?
 Assembled senates wait with awful dread,
 To firm your high commands, and make 'em fate.

L. J. Gray. You turn to view the painted side of roy-
 alty,
 And cover all the cares that lurk beneath.
 Is it, to be a queen, to sit aloft,
 In solemn, dull, uncomfortable state,
 The flatter'd idol of a servile court?

Is it, to draw a pompous train along,
 A pageant, for the wond'ring croud to gaze at ?
 Is it, in wantonness of pow'r to reign,
 And make the world subservient to my pleasure ?
 Is it not rather, to be greatly wretched,
 To watch, to toil, to take a sacred charge,
 To bend each day before high heav'n, and own,
 This people hast thou trusted to my hand,
 And at my hand, I know, thou shalt require 'em ?
 Alas ! *Northumberland* ! — My father ! — Is it not
 To live a life of care, and when I die,
 Have more to answer for before my Judge,
 Than any of my subjects ?
Dutch. Suff. Ev'ry state
 Allotted to the race of man below,
 Is, in proportion, doom'd to taste some sorrow.
 Nor is the golden wreath on a king's brow
 Exempt from care ; and yet, who would not bear it ?
 Think on the monarchs of our royal race,
 They liv'd not for themselves : how many blessings,
 How many lifted hands shall pay thy toil,
 If for thy people's good thou happ'ly borrow
 Some portion from the hours of rest, and wake
 To give the world repose !

Suff. Behold we stand upon the brink of ruin,
 And only thou canst save us. Persecution
 That fiend of *Rome* and hell, prepares her tortures ;
 See where she comes in *Mary's* priestly train !
 Still wo't thou doubt ? till thou behold her stalk,
 Red with the blood of martyrs, and wide wasting
 O'er *England's* bosom ? All the mourning year
 Our towns shall glow with unextinguish'd fires ;
 Our youth on racks shall stretch their crackling bones ;
 Our babes shall sprawl on consecrated spears ?
 Matrons and husbands, with their new-born infants,
 Shall burn promiscuous ; a continu'd peal
 Of lamentations, groans, and shrieks shall sound
 Through all our purple ways.

Guil.

Guil. Amidst that ruin,
Think thou behold'st thy *Guilford's* head laid low,
Bloody and pale——

L. J. Gray. Oh! spare the dreadful image!

Guil. Oh! wou'd the misery be bounded there,
My life were little: but the rage of *Rome*
Demands whole hecatombs, a land of victims.
With superstition comes that other fiend,
That bane of peace, of arts and virtue, tyranny;
That foe to justice, scorner of all law;
That beast, which thinks mankind were born for one,
And made by heav'n to be a monster's prey;
That heaviest curse of groaning-nations, tyranny.

Mary shall, by her kindred *Spain*, be taught
To bend our necks beneath a brazen yoke,
And rule o'er wretches with an iron sceptre.

L. J. Gray. Avert that judgment, heaven!
Whate'er thy providence allots for me,
In mercy spare my country.

Guil. Oh, my Queen!

Does not thy great, thy generous heart relent,
To think this land, for liberty so fam'd,
Shall have her tow'ry front at once laid low,
And robb'd of all its glory? Oh! my country
Oh! fairest *Albion*, empress of the deep,
How have thy noblest sons with stubborn valour
Stood to the last, dy'd many a field in blood,
In dear defence of birth-right and their laws!
And shall those hands which fought the cause of free-
dom,

Be manacled in base unworthy bonds;
Be tamely yielded up, the spoil, the slaves
Of hair-brain'd zeal, and cruel coward priests?

L. J. Gray. Yes, my lov'd Lord, my soul is mov'd
like thine,

At ev'ry danger which invades our *England*;
My cold heart kindles at the great occasion,
And cou'd be more than man in her defence.
But where is my commission to redress?

Or

Or where my pow'r to save? Can *Edward's* will,
 Or twenty met in council, make a queen?
 Can you, my Lords, give me the power to canvass
 A doubtful title with King *Henry's* daughters?
 Where are the rev'rend sages of the law,
 To guide me with their wisdoms, and point out
 The paths which right and justice bid me tread?

North. The judges all attend, and will at leisure
 Resolve you ev'ry scruple.

L. J. Gray. They expound;
 But where are those, my Lord, that make the law?
 Where are the ancient honours of the realm
 The nobles with the mitred fathers join'd?
 The wealthy commons solemnly assembled?
 Where is that voice of a consenting people,
 To pledge the universal faith with mine,
 And call me justly queen?

North. Nor shall that long
 Be wanting to your wish: the lords and commons
 Shall at your royal bidding, soon assemble,
 And with united homage own your title.
 Delay not then to meet the general wish,
 But be our queen, be *England's* better angel.
 Nor let mistaken piety betray you
 To join with cruel *Mary* in our ruin:
 Her bloody faith commands her to destroy,
 And yours forbids to save.

Guil. Our foes, already
 High in their hopes, devote us all to death:
 The dronish monks the scorn and shame of manhood,
 Rouse and prepare once more to take possession,
 To nestle in their ancient hives again;
 Again they furbish up their holy trumpery,
 Relicks, and wooden wonder-working saints,
 Whole loads of lumber and religious rubbish,
 In high procession mean to bring them back,
 And place the puppets in their shrines again:
 While those of keener malice, savage *Bonner*,
 And deep designing *Gard'ner*, dream of vengeance;
 Devour

Devour the blood of innocents, in hope ;
 Like vultures, snuff the slaughter in the wind,
 And speed their flight to havock and the prey.
 Haste then, and save us, while 'tis given to save
 Your country, your religion.

North. Save your friends !

Suff. Your father !

Duch. Suff. Mother !

Guil. Husband !

L. J. Gray. Take me, crown me,
 Invest me with this royal wretchedness ;
 Let me not know one happy minute more.
 Let all my sleepless nights be spent in care,
 My days be vex'd with tumults and alarms ;
 If only I can save you, if my fate
 Has mark'd me out to be the public victim,
 I take the lot with joy. Yes, I will die
 For that eternal truth my faith is fixt on,
 And that dear native land which gave me birth :

Guil. Wake ev'ry tuneful instrument to tell it,
 And let the trumpet's sprightly note proclaim
 My *Jane* is *England's* Queen ! Let the loud cannon
 In peals of thunder speak it to *Augusta* ;
 Imperial *Thames*, catch thou the sacred sound,
 And roll it to the subject-ocean down :
 Tell the old deep, and all thy brother floods,
 My *Jane* is empress of the watry world !
 Now with glad fires our bloodless streets shall shine :
 With cries of joy our chearful ways shall ring ;
 Thy name shall echo thro' the rescu'd isle,
 And reach applauding heav'n !

L. J. Gray. Oh, *Guilford* ! what do we give up for
 glory !

For glory ! That's a toy I wou'd not purchase,
 An idle, empty bubble. But for *England* !
 What must we lose for that ! Since then my fate
 Has forc'd this hard exchange upon my will.
 Let gracious heav'n allow me one request :

F

For

For that blest peace in which I once did dwell,
 For books, retirement, and my studious cell,
 For all those joys my happier days did prove,
 For *Plato*, and his *Academic grove* ;
 All that I ask, is tho' my fortune frown,
 And bury me beneath this fatal crown ;
 Let that one good be added to my doom,
 To save this land from tyranny and *Rome*. [Exeunt.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

SCENE continues.

Enter PEMBROKE and GARDINER.

Gar. I N an unlucky and accursed hour
 Set forth that traitor Duke, that proud *Nor-*
thumberland,

To draw his sword upon the side of heresy,
 And war against our *Mary's* royal right :
 Ill fortune fly before, and pave his way
 With disappointments, mischief, and defeat ;
 And thou, O holy *Becket*, the protector,
 The champion, and the martyr of our church,
 Appear, and once more own the cause of *Rome* ;
 Beat down his lance, break thou his sword in battle,
 And cover foul rebellion with confusion.

Pem. I saw him marching at his army's head ;
 I mark'd him issuing through the city-gate
 In harness all appointed, as he pass'd :
 And (for he wore his beaver up) cou'd read
 Upon his visage, horror and dismay.
 No voice of chearful salutation chear'd him,
 None wish'd his arms might thrive, or bad God-speed
 him ;

But through a staring ghastly looking croud,
 Unhail'd, unblest'd, with heavy heart he went :

As

As if his traitor father's haggard ghost,
And *Somerset* fresh bleeding from the axe,
On either hand had usher'd him to ruin.

Gard. Nor shall the holy vengeance loiter long.
At *Farmingham* in *Suffolk* lies the Queen,
Mary, our pious mistress; where each day
The nobles of the land, and swarming populace
Gather and list beneath her royal ensigns.
The fleet commanded by Sir *Thomas Ferningham*,
Set out in warlike manner to oppose her,
With one consent have join'd to own her cause:
The valiant *Suffex*, and Sir *Edward Hastings*,
With many more of note are up in arms,
And all declare for her.

Pem. The citizens,
Who held the noble *Somerset* right dear,
Hate this aspiring *Dudley* and his race,
And wou'd, upon the instant, join t'oppose him;
Could we but draw some of the lords o'th' council
T'appear among 'em, own the same design,
And bring the rev'rend sanction of authority
To lead 'em into action. For that purpose,
To thee, as to an oracle, I come,
To learn what fit expedient may be found,
To win the wary council to our side.
Say thou, whose head is grown thus silver-white,
In arts of government, and turns of state,
How may we blast our enemies with ruin,
And sink the curs'd *Northumberland* to hell.

Gard. In happy time be your whole wish accomplish'd,
Since the proud Duke set out, I have had conference
As fit occasion serv'd, with divers of 'em;
The Earl of *Arundel*, *Mason*, and *Cheyney*,
And find 'em all dispos'd as we cou'd ask.
By holy *Mary*, if I count aright,
To-day the better part shall leave this place,
And meet at *Baynard's* castle in the city;
There own our sovereign's title, and defy
Jane and her gospel-crew. But hye you hence!

This

This place is still within our foes command,
Their puppet-queen reigns here.

Enter an OFFICER with a guard.

Off. Seize on 'em both.

[Guards seize Pembroke and Gardiner.]

My Lord, you are a pris'ner to the state.

Pem. Ha! by whose order?

Off. By the Queen's command,
Sign'd and deliver'd by Lord *Guilford Dudley*.

Pem. Curse on his traitor-heart!

Gard. Rest you contented:

You've loiter'd here too long; but use your patience,
These bonds shall not be lasting.

Off. As for you, Sir,

[To Gardiner.]

'Tis the Queen's pleasure you be close confin'd;
You've us'd that fair permission was allow'd you,
To walk at large within the *Tower*, unworthily.
You're noted for an over-busy meddler,
A secret practiser against the state;
For which, henceforth your limits shall be straiter.
Hence, to your chamber!

Gard. Farewel, gentle *Pembroke*;

I trust that we shall meet on blither terms:

Till then, amongst my beads, I will remember you,
And give you to the keeping of the saints.

[Exeunt Part of the Guards with Gardiner.]

Pem. Now, whither must I go?

Off. This way, my Lord.

[Going off.]

Enter GUILFORD.

Guil. Hold, Captain! E'er you go, I have a word
or two

For this is your noble pris'ner.

Off. At your pleasure:

I know my duty, and attend your Lordship.

*[The Officer and Guard retire to the further part
of the stage.]*

Guil.

Guil. Is all the gentleness that was betwixt us
So lost, so swept away from my remembrance,
Thou canst not look upon me ?

Pem. Ha ! not look !

What terrors are there in the *Dudley's* race
That *Pembroke* dare not look upon, and scorn ?
And yet, 'tis true, I wou'd not look upon thee ;
Our eyes avoid to look on what we hate,
As well as what we fear.

Guil. You hate me, then !

Pem. I do : and wish perdition may o'ertake
Thy father, thy false self, and thy whole name.

Guil. And yet, as sure as rage disturbs thy reason,
And masters all the noble nature in thee,
As sure as thou hast wrong'd me, I am come
In tenderness of friendship to preserve thee ;
To plant ev'n all the pow'r I have before thee,
And fence thee from destruction with my life.

Pem. Friendship from thee ! But my just soul disdains
thee.

Hence ! take the prostituted bauble back,
Hang it to grace some flavinging ideot's neck,
For none but fools will prize the tinsel toy.
But thou art come, perhaps to vaunt thy greatness,
And set thy purple pomp to view before me ;
To let me know that *Guilford* is a king,
That he can speak the word, and give me freedom,
Oh ! short-liv'd pageant ! hadst thou all the pow'r
Which thy vain soul wou'd grasp at, I wou'd die,
Rot in a dungeon, e'er receive a grace,
The least, the meanest courtesy from thee.

Guil. Oh, *Pembroke* ! But I have not time to talk,
For danger presses danger unforeseen,
And secret as the shaft that flies by night,
Is aiming at thy life. Captain, a word ! [*To the Officer.*]
I take your pris'ner to my proper charge ;
Draw off your guard, and leave his sword with me.

[*The Officer delivers the sword to Lord Guilford,*
and goes out with his guard.

[Lord

[Lord Guilford offering the sword to Pembroke.
 Receive this gift, ev'n from a rival's hand ;
 And if thy rage will suffer thee to hear
 The council of a man once call'd thy friend,
 Fly from this fatal place, and seek thy safety.

Pem. How now ! what shew ? what mockery is this ?
 Is it in sport you use me thus ? what means
 This swift fantastic changing of the scene ?

Guil. Oh ! take thy sword ; and let thy valiant hand
 Be ready arm'd to guard thy noble life :
 The time, the danger, and the wild impatience,
 Forbid me all to enter into speech with thee,
 Or I cou'd tell thee——

Pem. No, it needs not, traitor !
 For all thy poor, thy little arts are known.
 Thou fear'st my vengeance, and art come to fawn,
 To make a merit of that proffer'd freedom,
 Which, in despite of thee, a day shall give me.
 Nor can my fate depend on thee, false *Guilford* ;
 For know, to thy confusion, e'er the sun
 Twice gild the east, our royal *Mary* comes
 To end thy pageant reign, and set me free.

Guil. Ungrateful and unjust ! Hast thou then known
 me

So little, to accuse my heart of fear ?
 Hast thou forgotten *Musselborough's* field ?
 Did I then fear, when by thy side I fought,
 And dy'd my maiden sword in *Scottish* blood !
 But this is madness all.

Pem. Give me my sword. [Taking his sword.
 Perhaps indeed, I wrong thee. Thou hast thought ;
 And conscious of the injury thou hast done me
 Art come to proffer me a soldier's justice,
 And meet my arm in single opposition.
 Lead then, and let me follow to the field.

Guil. Yes, *Pembroke*, thou shalt satisfy thy vengeance,
 And write thy bloody purpose on my bosom.
 But let death wait to-day. By our past friendship,

In

In honour's name, by ev'ry sacred tie,
I beg thee ask no more, but haste from hence.

Pem. What mystic meaning lurks beneath thy words?
What fear is this, which thou would'st awe my soul with?
Is there a danger *Pembroke* dares not meet?

Guil. Oh! spare my tongue a tale of guilt and horror,

Trust me this once: believe me when I tell thee,
Thy safety and thy life is all I seek.

Away!

Pem. By heav'n! I wo'not stir a step.
Curse on thy shuffling, dark, ambiguous phrase.
If thou would'st have me think thou mean'st me fairly,
Speak with that plainness honesty delights in,
And let thy double tongue for once be true.

Guil. Forgive me, filial piety and nature,
If, thus compell'd, I break your sacred laws,
Reveal my father's crime, and blot with infamy
The hoary head of him who gave me being,
To save the man whom my soul loves, from death.

[Giving a paper.]

Read there the fatal purpose of thy foe,
A thought which wounds my soul with shame and
horror;

Somewhat that darkness shou'd have hid forever,
But that thy life—Say, hast thou seen that character?

Pem. I know it well; the hand of proud *Northumberland*,

Directed to his minions, *Gates* and *Palmer*.
What's this?

[Reads.]

*Remember, with your closest care, to observe those whom
I nam'd to you at parting; especially keep your eye
upon the Earl of Pembroke; as his power and in-
terest are most considerable, so his opposition will be
most fatal to us. Remember the resolution was taken,
if you should find him inclin'd to our enemies. The
forms of justice are tedious, and delays are dangerous.*

If

*If he falters, lose not the sight of him till your
daggers have reach'd his heart.*

My heart! Oh! murd'rous villain!

Guil. Since he parted,

The ways have all been watch'd, thy steps been mark'd;

Thy secret treaties with the malecontents

That harbour in the city, thy conferring

With *Gard'ner* here in the *Tower*; all is known:

And, in pursuance of that bloody mandate,

A set of chosen ruffians wait to end thee.

There was but one way left me to preserve thee:

I took it; and this morning sent my warrant

To seize upon thy person——But begone!

Pem. 'Tis so—'tis truth——I see his honest heart——

Guil. I have a friend of well-try'd faith and courage,

Who with a fit disguise, and arms conceal'd,

Attends without to guide thee hence in safety.

Pem. What is *Northumberland*? And what art thou?

Guil. Waste not the time. Away!

Pem. Here let me fix,

And gaze with everlasting wonder on thee.

What is there good or excellent in man,

That is not found in thee? Thy virtues flash,

They break at once on my astonish'd soul;

As if the curtains of the dark were drawn

To let in day at midnight.

Guil. Think me true;

And tho' ill-fortune cros'd upon our friendship——

Pem. Curse on our fortune!—Think! I know thee
honest.

Guil. For ever I cou'd hear thee——but thy life——

Oh, *Pembroke*! linger not——

Pem. And can I leave thee

E'er I have clasp'd thee in my eager arms,

And giv'n thee back my sad repenting heart?

Believe me, *Guilford*, like the patriarch's dove,

[*Embracing.*

It

It wander'd forth, but found no resting-place,
Till it came home again to lodge with thee.

Guil. What is there that my soul can more desire,
Than these dear marks of thy returning friendship?
The danger comes——If you stay longer here,
You die, my *Pembroke*.

Pem. Let me stay and die;
For if I go, I go to work thy ruin.
Thou know'st not what a foe thou send'st me forth,
That I have sworn destruction to the Queen,
And pledg'd my faith to *Mary* and her cause:
My honour is at stake.

Guil. I know 'tis given.
But go—the stronger thy engagement's there,
The more's thy danger here. There is a Power
Who sits above the stars; in him I trust:
All that I have, his bounteous hand bestow'd;
And he that gave it, can preserve it to me.
If his o'er-ruling will ordains my ruin,
What is there more, but to fall down before him,
And humbly yield obedience?—Fly!—be gone!

Pem. Yes, I will go—for see! behold who comes!
Oh! *Guilford*! hide me, shield me from her sight;
Ev'ry mad passion kindles up again,
Love, rage, despair——and yet I will be master——
I will remember thee——Oh, my torn heart!
I have a thousand thousand things to say,
But cannot, dare not stay to look on her.
Thus gloomy ghosts, whene'er the breaking morn
Gives notice of the chearful sun's return,
Fade at the light, with horror stand oppress'd,
And shrink before the purple-dawning east;
Swift with the fleeting shades they wing their way,
And dread the brightness of the rising day.

[*Exeunt Guilford and Pembroke.*]

Enter Lady JANE, reading.

L. J. Gray. "Tis false! The thinking soul is some-
what more

G

"Than

"Than symmetry of atoms well dispos'd,
 "The harmony of matter. Farewel else
 "The hope of all hereafter, that new life,
 "That separate intellect, which must survive,
 "When this fine frame is moulder'd into dust.

Enter GUILFORD.

Guil. What read'st thou there, my Queen?

L. J. Gray. 'Tis *Plato's Phædon*;

Where dying *Socrates* takes leave of life,
 With such an easy, careless, calm indifference,
 As if the trifle were of no account,
 Mean in itself, and only to be worn
 In honour of the giver.

Guil. Shall thy soul

Still scorn the world, still fly the joys that court
 Thy blooming beauty, and thy tender youth?
 Still shall she soar on contemplation's wing,
 And mix with nothing meaner than the stars;
 As heaven and immortality alone
 Were objects worthy to employ her faculties?

L. J. Gray. Bate but thy truth, what is there here
 below

Deserves the least regard? Is it not time
 To bid our souls look out, explore hereafter,
 And seek some better sure-abiding place;
 When all around our gathering foes come on,
 To drive, to sweep us from this world at once;

Guil. Does any danger new—

L. J. Gray. The faithless counsellors
 Are fled from hence, to join the Princess *Mary*.
 The servile herd of courtiers, who so late
 In low obeisance bent the knee before me;
 They who with zealous tongues, and hands uplifted,
 Besought me to defend their laws and faith;
 Vent their lewd execrations on my name,
 Proclaim me trait'ers now, and to the scaffold
 Doom my devoted head.

Guil.

Guil. The changeling villains !
 That pray for slavery, fight for their bonds,
 And shun the blessing, liberty, like ruin.
 What art thou, human nature, to do thus ?
 Does fear or folly make thee, like the *Indian*,
 Fall down before this dreadful devil, tyranny,
 And worship the destroyer ?
 But wherefore do I loiter tamely here ?
 Give me my arms : I will preserve my country,
 Ev'n in her own despite. Some friends I have,
 Who will or die or conquer in thy cause,
 Thine and religion's, thine and *England's* cause.

L. J. Gray. Art thou not all my treasure, all my
 guard ?

And wo't thou take from me the only joy,
 The last defence is left me here below ?
 Think not thy arm can stem the driving torrent,
 Or save a people, who with blinded rage
 Urge their own fate, and strive to be undone.
Northumberland, thy father, is in arms ;
 And if it be in valour to defend us,
 His sword, that long has known the way to conquest,
 Shall be our surest safety.

Enter the Duke of SUFFOLK.

Suff. Oh ! my children !

L. J. Gray. Alas ! what means my father ?

Suff. Oh ! my son,

Thy father, great *Northumberland*, on whom
 Our dearest hopes were built——

Guil. Ha ! what of him ?

Suff. Is lost ! betray'd !

His army, onward as he march'd, shrunk from him
 Moulder'd away, and melted by his side ;
 Like falling hail thick strewn upon the ground,
 Which, e'er we can essay to count, is vanish'd.
 With some few followers he arriv'd at *Cambridge* ;
 But there ev'n they forsook him ; and himself
 Was forc'd, with heavy heart and watry eye,

To

To cast his cap up, with dissembled chear,
 And cry, God save Queen *Mary*. But alas!
 Little avail'd the semblance of that loyalty:
 For soon thereafter, by the Earl of *Arundel*,
 With treason he was charg'd, and there arrested;
 And now he brings him pris'ner up to *London*.

L. J. Gray. Then there's an end of greatness: the
 vain dream

Of empire, and a crown that danc'd before me,
 With all those unsubstantial empty forms,
 Waiting in idle mockery around us;
 The gaudy masque, tedious, and nothing meaning,
 Is vanish'd all at once——Why, fare it well.

Guil. And canst thou bear this sudden turn of fate,
 With such unshaken temper?

L. J. Gray. For myself,
 If I could form a wish for heav'n to grant,
 It shou'd have been, to rid me of this crown,
 And thou, o'er-ruling, great, all-knowing Power!
 Thou, who discern'st our thoughts, who see'st 'em ri-
 sing

'And forming in the soul; oh judge me, thou!
 If e'er ambition's guilty fires have warm'd me,
 If e'er my heart inclin'd to pride, to power,
 Or join'd in being a queen. I took the sceptre
 To save this land, thy people, and thy altars:
 And now, behold, I bend my grateful knee, [*Kneeling*.
 In humble adoration of that mercy,
 Which quits me of the vast unequal task.

Enter the Dukes of SUFFOLK.

D. Suff. Nay, keep that posture still; and let us join,
 Fix all our knees by thine, lift up our hands,
 And seek for help and pity from above,
 For earth and faithless man will give us none.

L. J. Gray. What is the worst our cruel fate ordains
 us?

Duch.

D. Suff. Curs'd be my fatal counsels, curs'd my tongue,
That pleaded for thy ruin, and persuaded—
Thy guiltless feet to tread the paths of greatness!
My child!——I have undone thee!——

L. J. Gray. Oh, my mother!
Shou'd I not bear a portion in your sorrows?

D. Suff. Alas! thou hast thy own, a double portion,
Mary is come, and the revolting *Londoners*,
Who beat the heav'ns with thy applauded name,
Now crowd to meet, and hail her as their queen,
Sussex is enter'd here, commands the *Tower*,
Has plac'd his guards around; and this sad place,
So late thy palace, is become our prison.
I saw him bend his knee to cruel *Gardiner*,
Who, freed from his confinement, ran to meet him,
Embrac'd and bless'd him; with a hand of blood
Each hast'ning moment I expect 'em here,
To seize and pass the doom of death upon us.

Guil. Ha! seiz'd! Shalt thou be seiz'd? and shall I
stand,
And tamely see thee borne away to death?
Then blasted be my coward name, for ever.
No, I will set myself to guard this spot,
To which our narrow empire now is shrunk?
Here will I grow the bulwark of my queen;
Nor shall the hand of violence profane thee
Until my breast have borne a thousand wounds,
Till this torn mangled body sink at once
A heap of purple ruin at thy feet.

L. J. Gray. And cou'd thy rash distracted rage do
thus?
Draw thy vain sword against an armed multitude,
Only to have my poor heart split with horror,
To see thee stabb'd and butcher'd here before me?
Oh, call thy better nobler courage to thee,
And let us meet this adverse fate with patience!
Greet our insulting foes with equal tempers,

With

With even brows, and souls secure of death ;
 Here stand unmov'd ; as once the *Roman* senate
 Receiv'd fierce *Brennus*, and the conquering *Gauls*,
 Till ev'n the rude *Barbarians* stood amaz'd
 At such superior virtue. Be thyself,
 For see the trial comes !

Enter SUSSEX, GARDINER, Officers and Soldiers.

Suff. Guards, execute your orders ; seize the traytors :
 Here my commission ends. To you, my Lord,
[To Gar.

So our great mistress, Royal *Mary*, bids,
 I leave the full disposal of these pris'ners ;
 To your wise care the pious Queen commends
 Her sacred self, her crown, and what's yet more,
 The holy *Roman* church ; for whose dear safety,
 She wills your utmost diligence be shewn,
 To bring rebellion to the bar of justice.
 Yet farther, to proclaim how much she trusts
 In *Winchester's* deep thought, and well try'd faith,
 The seal attends to grace those rev'rend hands ;
 And when I next salute you, I must call you
 Chief minister and chancellor of *England*.

Gar. Unnumber'd blessings fall upon her head,
 My ever-gracious Lady ! to remember
 With such full bounty her old humble beadsman !
 For these her foes, leave me to deal with them.

Suff. The Queen is on her ent'rance, and expects me ;
 My Lord, farewell.

Gar. Farewel, right noble *Sussex* :
 Commend me to the Queen's grace ; say, Her bidding
 Shall be observ'd by her most lowly creature.

[Exit *Sussex*.

Lieutenant of the *Tower*, take hence your pris'ners :
 Be it your care to see 'em kept apart,
 That they may hold no commerce with each other.

L. J. Gray. That stroke was unexpected.

Guil. Wo't thou part us ?

Gar.

Gar. I hold no speech with heretics and traytors.
Lieutenant see my orders obey'd. [*Exit Gar.*]

Guil. Inhuman, monstrous, unexempl'd cruelty !
Oh, tyrant ! but the task becomes thee well ;
Thy savage temper joys to do death's office ;
To tear the sacred bands of love asunder,
And part those hands which heav'n itself had join'd.

Duch. Suff. To let us waste the little rest of life
Together, had been merciful.

Suff. Then it had not
Been done like *Winchester*.

Guil. Thou stand'st unmov'd ;
Calm temper sits upon thy beauteous brow ;
Thy eyes, that flow'd so fast for *Edward's* loss,
Gaze unconcern'd upon the ruin round thee ;
As if thou had'st resolv'd to brave thy fate,
And triumph in the midst of desolation.
Ha ! see, it swells ; the liquid crystal rises,
It starts, in spight of thee,—but I will catch it ;
Nor let the earth be wet with dew so rich.

L. J. Gray. And dost thou think, my *Guilford*, I can see
My father, mother, and ev'n thee my husband,
Torn from my side without a pang of sorrow ?
How art thou thus unknowing in my heart !
Words cannot tell thee what I feel. There is
An agonizing softness busy here,
That tugs the strings, that struggles to get loose,
And pour my soul in wailings out before thee.

Guil. Give way, and let the gushing torrent come :
Behold the tears we bring to swell the deluge,
Till the flood rise upon the guilty world,
And make the ruin common.

L. J. Gray. *Guilford* ! no :
The time for tender thoughts and soft endearments
Is fled away and gone ; joy has forsaken us ;
Our hearts have now another part to play ;
They must be steel'd with some uncommon fortitude,
That, fearless, we may tread the paths of horror ;
And

And in despite of fortune and our foes,
Ev'n in the hour of death, be more than conquerors.

Guil. Oh, teach me! say what energy divine
Inspires thy softer sex, and tender years,
With such unshaken courage?

L. J. Gray. Truth and innocence;
A conscious knowledge rooted in my heart,
That to have sav'd my country was my duty.
Yes *England*, yes, my country, I would save thee;
But heav'n forbids, heav'n disallows my weakness,
And to some dear selected hero's hand
Reserves the glory of thy great deliv'rance.

Lieut. My Lords, my orders——

Guil. See! we must——must part.

L. J. Gray. Yet surely we shall meet again.

Guil. Oh! Where?

L. J. Gray. If not on earth, among yon golden stars,
Where other suns arise on other earths,
And happier beings rest on happier seats:
Where, with a reach enlarg'd, the soul shall view
The great Creator's never ceasing hand
Pour forth new worlds to all eternity,
And people the infinity of space.

Guil. Fain wou'd I chear my heart with hopes like
these;

But my sad thoughts turn ever to the grave,
To that last dwelling, whither now we haste,
Where the black shade shall interpose betwixt us,
And veil thee from these longing eyes for ever.

L. J. Gray. 'Tis true, by those dark paths our jour-
ney leads,

And thro' the vale of death we pass to life.
But what is there in death to blast our hopes?
Behold the universal works of nature,
Where life still springs from death. To us the sun
Dies ev'ry night, and ev'ry morn revives:
The flow'rs, which winter's icy hand destroy'd,
Lift their fair heads, and live again in spring.

Mark

Mark, with what hopes upon the furrow'd plain,
 The careful ploughman casts the pregnant grain;
 There hid, as in a grave, awhile it lies,
 Till the revolving season bids it rise;
 Till nature's genial pow'rs command a birth,
 And potent, call it from the teeming earth:
 Then large increase the bury'd treasures yield,
 And with full harvest crown the plenteous field,
 [Exeunt severally with Guards.]

ACT V. SCENE I.

SCENE continues.

Enter GARDINER, as Lord Chancellor, and the Lieutenant of the Tower. Servants with lights before 'em.

Lieut. **G**OOD morning to your Lordship! you rise early.

Gar. Nay, by the rood, there are too many sleepers;
 Some must stir early, or the state shall suffer.
 Did you, as yesterday our mandate bade,
 Inform your pris'ners, Lady Jane and Guilford,
 They were to die this day?

Lieut. My Lord, I did.

Gar. 'Tis well. But say, how did your message
 like 'em?

Lieut. My Lord, they met the summons with a
 temper

That shew'd a solemn, serious sense of death,
 Mix'd with a noble scorn of all its terrors.
 In short, they heard me with the self-same patience
 With which they still have borne them in their prison,
 In one request they both concurr'd: each begg'd
 To die before the other.

Gar. That dispose
 As you think fitting.

H

Lieut.

Lieut. The Lord *Guilford* only.
 Implor'd another boon, and urg'd it warmly ;
 That ere he suffer'd, he might see his wife,
 And take a late farewell.

Gar. That's not much ;
 That grace may be allowed him : see you to it.
 How goes the morning ?

Lieut. Not yet four, my Lord.

Gar. By ten they meet their fate. Yet one thing
 more.

You know 'twas order'd that the Lady *Jane*
 Shou'd suffer here within the *Tow'r*. Take care
 No crowds may be let in, no maudlin gazers
 To wet their handkerchiefs, and make report
 How like a saint she ended. Some fit number,
 And those too of our friends, were most convenient :
 But, above all, see that good guard be kept ;
 You know the Queen is lodg'd at present here,
 Take care that no disturbance reach her Highness.
 And so good morning, good Mr. Lieutenant.

[*Exit Lieut.*

How now! What light comes here ?

Serv. So please your Lordship.

If I mistake not, 'tis the Earl of *Pembroke*.

Gar. *Pembroke* ! — 'Tis he ; what calls him forth
 thus early ?

Somewhat he seems to bring of high import ;
 Some flame uncommon kindles up his soul,
 And flashes forth impetuous at his eyes.

Enter PEMBROKE, a Page with a light before him.
 Good morrow, noble *Pembroke* ! what importunate
 And strong necessity breaks on your slumbers,
 And rears your youthful head from off your pillow
 At this unwholsome hour ; while yet the night
 Lasts in her latter course, and with her raw
 And rheumy damps infests the dusky air ?

Pem. Oh, rev'rend *Winchester* ! my beating heart
 Exults and labours with the joy it bears.
 The news I bring shall bless the breaking morn ;

The

- * This coming day the sun shall rise more glorious,
Than when his maiden-beams first gilded o'er
The rich immortal greens, the flow'ry plains,
And fragrant bow'rs of paradise new-born.

Gar. What happiness is this!

Pem. 'Tis mercy! mercy,
The mark of heav'n impress'd on human kind,
Mercy, that glads the world, deals joy around;
Mercy that smooths the dreadful brow of power,
And makes dominion light; mercy, that saves,
Binds up the broken heart and heals despair.

Mary, our royal, ever-gracious mistress,
Has to my services and humblest prayers
Granted the lives of *Guilford* and his wife;
Full and free pardon!

Gar. Ha! What said you? pardon!
But sure you can not mean it, cou'd not urge
The Queen to such a rash and ill tim'd grace?
What! save the lives of those who wore her crown?
My Lord, 'tis most unweigh'd, pernicious counsel,
And must not be comply'd with.

Pem. Not comply'd with!
And who shall dare to bar her sacred pleasure,
And stop the stream of mercy?

Gar. That will I:
Who wo't see her gracious disposition
Drawn to destroy herself.

Pem. Thy narrow soul
Knows not the godlike glory of forgiving:
Nor can thy cold, thy ruthless heart conceive,
How large the power, how fix'd the empire is,
Which benefits confer on generous minds:
Goodness prevails upon the stubborn'st foes,
And conquers more than ever *Cesar's* sword did.

Gar. These are romantic, light vain-glorious dreams.
Have you consider'd well upon the danger?
How dear to the fond many, and how popular
These are whom you wou'd spare? have you forgot,
When at the bar before the seat of judgment,

This

This Lady *Jane*, this beauteous trayt'refs stood,
 With what command ſhe charm'd the whole aſſembly ?
 With ſilent grief the mournful audience ſat,
 Fix'd on her face, and liſt'ning to her pleading.
 Her very judges wrung their hands for pity ;
 Their old hearts melted in 'em as ſhe ſpoke,
 And tears ran down upon their ſilver beards,
 Ev'n I myſelf was mov'd, and for a moment
 Felt wrath ſuſpended in my doubtful breaſt,
 And question'd if the voice I heard was mortal.
 But when her tale was done, what loud applauſe,
 Like burſts of thunder, ſhook the ſpacious hall !
 At laſt, when ſore conſtrain'd, th' unwilling lords
 Pronounc'd the fatal ſentence on her life ;
 A peal of groans ran thro' the crowded court,
 As every heart was broken, and the doom,
 Like that which waits the world, were univerſal.

Pem. And can that ſacred form, that angel's voice,
 Which mov'd the hearts of a rude ruthleſs crowd,
 Nay, mov'd ev'n thine, now ſue in vain for pity ?

Gar. Alas, you look on her with lover's eyes :
 I hear and ſee through reaſonable organs,
 Where paſſion has no part. Come, come, my Lord,
 You have too little of the ſtateſman in you.

Pem. And you, my Lord, too little of the churchman.
 Is not the ſacred purpoſe of our faith,
 Peace and good-will to man ? the hallow'd hand,
 Ordain'd to bleſs, ſhould know no ſtain of blood.
 'Tis true, I am not practis'd in your politics ;
 'Twas your pernicious counſel led the Queen
 To break her promiſe with the men of *Suffolk*,
 To violate, what in a prince ſhou'd be
 Sacred above the reſt, her royal word.

Gar. Yes, and I dare avow it ; I advis'd her
 To break thro' all engagements made with heretics,
 And keep no faith with ſuch a miſcreant crew.

Pem. Where ſhall we ſeek for truth, when ev'n religion,
 The prieſtly robe, and mitred head declaim it ?
 But thus bad men diſhonour the beſt cauſe.

I tell thee, *Winchester*, doctrines like thine
Have stain'd our holy church with greater infamy
Than all your eloquence can wipe away.
Hence 'tis, that those who differ from our faith,
Brand us with breach of oaths, with persecution,
With tyranny o'er conscience, and proclaim
Our scarlet prelates men that thirst for blood,
And Christian *Rome* more cruel than the Pagan.

Gar. Nay, if you rail, farewell. The Queen must be
Better advis'd, than thus to cherish vipers,
Whose mortal stings are arm'd against her life.
But while I hold the seal, no pardon passes
For heretics and traitors. [Exit Gardiner.

Pem. 'Twas unlucky
To meet and cross upon this froward priest :
But let me lose the thought on't, let me haste,
Pour my glad tidings forth in *Guilford's* bosom,
And pay him back the life his friendship sav'd. [Exit.

The Scene draws, and discovers the Lady JANE kneeling, as at her devotion; a Light, and a Book placed on a table before her.

Enter LIEUTENANT of the Tower, Lord GUILFORD,
and one of Lady JANE's Women.

Lieut. Let me not press upon your Lordship farther,
But wait your leisure in the antichamber.

Guil. I will not hold you long. [Exit Lieutenant.

Wom. Softly, my Lord !

For yet, behold, she kneels. Before the night
Had reach'd her middle space, she left her bed,
And with a pleasing sober chearfulness,
As for her funeral, array'd herself
In those sad solemn weeds. Since then, her knee
Has known that posture only, and her eye,
Or fix'd upon the sacred page before her,
Or lifted with her rising hopes to heaven.

Guil. See ! with what zeal those holy hands are rear'd !
Mark her vermilion lip, with fervour trembling !

Her

Her spotless bosom swells with sacred ardor,
 And burns with extasy and strong devotion ;
 Her supplication sweet, her faithful vows
 Fragrant and pure, and grateful to high heaven,
 Like incense from the golden censer rise :
 Or blessed angels minister unseen,
 Catch the soft sounds, and with alternate office
 Spread their ambrosial wings, then mount with joy,
 And waft 'em upwards to the throne of grace.
 But she has ended, and comes forward.

Lady JANE rises, and comes towards the front of the stage.

L. J. Gray. Ha !

Art thou my *Guilford* ? Wherefore dost thou come
 To break the settled quiet of my soul ?
 I meant to part without another pang,
 And lay my weary head down full of peace.

Guil. Forgive the fondness of my longing soul,
 That melts with tenderness, and leans towards thee :
 Tho' the imperious dreadful voice of fate
 Summon her hence, and warn her from the world.
 But if to see thy *Guilford*, give thee pain,
 Wou'd I had dy'd, and never more beheld thee :
 Tho' my lamenting discontented ghost
 Had wander'd forth unbliss'd by those dear eyes,
 And wail'd thy loss in death's eternal shades.

L. J. Gray. My heart had ended ev'ry earthly care,
 Had offer'd up its pray'rs for thee and *England*,
 And fix'd its hopes upon a rock unfailing ;
 While all the little business that remain'd,
 Was but to pass the forms of death with constancy,
 And leave a life become indifferent to me.
 But thou hast waken'd other thoughts within me :
 Thy sight, my dearest husband and my Lord,
 Strikes on the tender strings of love and nature :
 My vanquish'd passions rise again, and tell me
 'Tis more, far more than death, to part from thee.

Enter

Enter PEMBROKE.

Pem. Oh, let me fly ! bear up, thou swift impatience,
And lodge me in my faithful *Guilford's* arms ;

[Embracing.]

That I may snatch him from the greedy grave,
That I may warm his gentle heart with joy,
And talk to him of life, of life and pardon.

Guil. What means my dearest *Pembroke* ?

Pem. Oh ! my speech

Is choak'd with words that crowd to tell my tidings :
But I have sav'd thee, and—— Oh, joy unutterable !
The Queen, my gracious, my forgiving mistress,
Has given not only thee to my request,
But she, she too, in whom alone thou liv'st,
The partner of thy heart, thy love is safe.

Guil. Millions of blessings wait her ! —Has she—tell
me !

Oh ! has she spar'd my wife ?

Pem. Both, both are pardon'd.

But haste, and do thou lead me to thy saint,
That I may cast myself beneath her feet,
And beg her to accept this poor amends
For all I've done against her——Thou fair excellence,

[Kneeling.]

Canst thou forgive the hostile hand that arm'd
Against thy cause and robb'd thee of a crown ?

L. J. Gray. Oh, rise, my Lord, and let me take your
posture.

Life and the world were hardly worth my care,
But you have reconcil'd me to 'em both ;
Then let me pay my gratitude, and for
This free, this noble, unexpected mercy,
Thus low I bow to heav'n, the Queen, and you.

Pem. To me ! Forbid it, goodness, if I live,
Somewhat I will do shall deserve your thanks :
All discord and remembrance of offence
Shall be clean blotted out ; and for your freedom,
Myself have underta'en to be your caution.

Hear

Hear me, you saints, and aid my pious purpose;
 These that deserve so much, this wondrous pair,
 Let these be happy; ev'ry joy attend 'em;
 A fruitful bed, a chain of love unbroken,
 A good old age, to see their children's children,
 A holy death, and everlasting memory:
 While I resign to them my share of happiness:
 Contented still to wait what they enjoy,
 And singly to be wretched.

Enter Lieutenant of the Tower.

Lieut. The Lord Chancellor
 Is come with orders from the Queen.

Enter GARDINER and Attendants.

Pem. Ha! *Winchester!*

Gar. The Queen, whose days be many,
 By me confirms her first accorded grace:
 But as the pious Princess means her mercy
 Shou'd reach e'en to the soul as well as body,
 By me she signifies her royal pleasure,
 That thou, Lord *Guilford*, and the Lady *Jane*,
 Do instantly renounce, abjure your heresy,
 And yield obedience to the See of *Rome*.

L. J. Gray. What! turn apostate!

Guil. Ha! forego my faith!

Gar. This one condition only seals your pardon.
 But if, thro' pride of heart and stubborn obstinacy,
 With wilful hands you push the blessing from you,
 And shut your eyes against such manifest light;
 Know ye, your former sentence stands confirm'd,
 And you must die to-day.

Pem. 'Tis false as hell.

The mercy of the Queen was free and full.
 Think'st thou that princes merchandize their graces,
 As *Roman* priests their pardons? Do they barter,
 Screw up, like you, the buyer to a price,
 And doubly sell what was design'd a gift?

Gar.

Gar. My Lord, this language ill beseems your nobleness ;

Nor come I here to bandy words with madmen :
Behold the royal signet of the Queen,
Which amply speaks her meaning. You, the pris'ners,
Have heard at large its purport, and must instantly
Resolve upon the choice of life or death.

Pem. Curse on——But wherefore do I loiter here ?
I'll to the Queen this moment, and there know
What 'tis the mischief-making priest intends. [*Exit.*]

Gar. Your wisdom points you out a proper course.
A word with you, Lieutenant. [*Talks with Lieut. aside.*]

Guil. Must we part then ?
Where are those hopes that flatter'd us but now ;
Those joys, that like the spring with all its flow'rs,
Pour'd out their pleasures every where around us ?
In one poor minute gone, at once they wither'd,
And left their place all desolate behind 'em.

L. J. Gray. Such is this foolish world, and such
the certainty
Of all the boasted blessings it bestows :
Then, *Guilford*, let us have no more to do with it ;
Think only how to leave it as we ought.
But trust no more, and be deceiv'd no more.

Guil. Yes, I will copy thy divine example,
And tread the paths are pointed out by thee :
By thee instructed, to the fatal block
I bend my head with joy, and think it happiness
To give my life a ransom for my faith.
From thee, thou angel of my heart, I learn
That greatest, hardest task, to part with thee.

L. J. Gray. Oh, gloriously resolv'd ! heav'n is my
witness,
My heart rejoices in thee more ev'n now,
Thus constant as thou art in death, thus faithful,
Than when the holy priest first join'd our hands,
And knit the sacred knot of bridal love.

Gar. The day wears fast ; Lord *Guilford*, have you thought ?

Will you lay hold on life ?

Guil. What are the terms ?

Gar. Death, or the mass, attend you.

Guil. 'Tis determin'd :

Lead to the scaffold.

Gar. Bear him to his fate.

Guil. Oh, let me fold thee once more in my arms,
Thou dearest treasure of my heart, and print
A dying husband's kiss upon thy lip !
Shall we not live again, ev'n in these forms ?
Shall I not gaze upon thee with these eyes ?

L. J. Gray. Oh, wherefore dost thou sooth me with
thy softness ?

Why dost thou wind thyself about my heart,
And make this separation painful to us ?
Here break we off at once ; and let us now,
Forgetting ceremony like two friends,
That have a little business to be done,
Take a short leave, and haste to meet again.

Guil. Rest on that hope, my soul——my wife——

L. J. Gray. No more.

Guil. My fight hangs on thee——Oh ! support me
heav'n,

In this last pang——and let us meet in bliss.

[*Guilford is led off by the guards.*]

L. J. Gray. Can nature bear this stroke ?——

Wom. Alas ! she faints—— [Supporting.]

L. J. Gray. Wo't thou fail now !——The killing
stroke is past,

And all the bitterness of death is over.

Gar. Here let the dreadful hand of vengeance stay :
Have pity on your youth and blooming beauty ;
Cast not away the good which heav'n bestows ;
Time may have many years in store for you,
All crown'd with fair prosperity : your husband
Has perish'd in perverseness.

L.

L. J. Gray. Cease, thou raven :
Nor violate, with thy profaner malice,
My bleeding *Guilford's* ghost—'Tis gone, 'tis flown:
But lingers on the wing, and waits for me.

*The Scene draws, and discovers a Scaffold hung with black,
Executioner and Guards.*

And see, my journey's end.

1. Wom. My dearest Lady.

[Weeping.]

2. Wom. Oh, misery !

L. J. Gray. Forbear, my gentle maids,
Nor wound my peace with fruitless lamentations ;
The good and gracious hand of providence
Shall raise you better friends than I have been.

1. Wom. Oh, never ! never !——

L. J. Gray. Help to disarray,
And fit me for the block : do this last service,
And do it chearfully. Now you will see
Your poor unhappy mistress sleep in peace,
And cease from all her sorrows. These few trifles,
The pledges of a dying mistress' love,
Receive and share among you. Thou *Maria*, [To 1. Wom.
Hast been my old, my very faithful servant ;
In dear remembrance of thy love, I leave thee
This book, the law of everlasting truth :
Make it thy treasure still ; 'twas my support
When all help else forsook me.

Gar. Will you yet

Repent, be wise, and save your precious life ?

L. J. Gray. Oh, *Winchester* ! has learning taught
thee that,

To barter truth for life ?

Gar. Mistaken folly !

You toil and travel for your own perdition,
And die for damned errors.

L. J. Gray. Who judge rightly,
And who persist in error, will be known,
Then, when we meet again. Once more, farewell.

[To her Wom.
Goodness

Goodness be ever with you. When I'm dead,
Intreat they do no rude dishonest wrong
To my cold headless corpse! but see it shrouded,
And decent laid in earth.

Gar. Wo't thou then die?

Thy blood be on thy head.

L. J. Gray. My blood be where it falls, let the
earth hide it,

And may it never rise, or call for vengeance:
Oh, that it were the last should fall a victim
To zeal's inhuman wrath! Thou gracious heaven,
Hear, and defend at length thy suffering people;
Raise up a monarch of the royal blood,
Brave, pious, equitable, wise and good:
In thy due season let the hero come,
To save thy altars from the rage of *Rome*:
Long let him reign to bless the rescu'd land,
And deal out justice with a righteous hand.
And when he fails, Oh! may he leave a son,
With equal virtues to adorn his throne;
To latest times the blessing to convey,
And guard that faith for which I die to-day.

Lady JANE goes up to the Scaffold: The Scene closes.

Enter PEMBROKE.

Pem. Horror on horror! Blasted be the hand
That struck my *Guilford*! Oh! his bleeding trunk
Shall live in these distracted eyes for ever.
Curse on thy fatal arts, thy cruel counsels! [*To Gard.*
The Queen is deaf, and pitiless as thou art.

Gar. The just reward of heresy and treason
Is fallen upon 'em both, for their vain obstinacy;
Untimely death, with infamy on earth,
And everlasting punishment hereafter.

Pem. And canst thou tell? Who gave thee to explore

The secret purposes of heaven, or taught thee
To set a bound to mercy unconfin'd?
But know, thou proud perversely judging *Winchester*,
Howe'er

Howe'er you hard imperious censures doom,
And portion out our lot in worlds to come;
Those, who with honest hearts pursue the right,
And follow faithfully truth's sacred light,
Tho' suffering here, shall from their sorrows cease,
Rest with the saints, and dwell in endless peace.

[Exeunt omnes.]

E P I-

EPILOGUE,

Spoken by Mrs. PORTER.

THE Palms of Virtue Heroes oft have worn;
Those Wreaths to-night, a female Brow adorn.
The destin'd Saint, unfortunately brave,
Sunk with those Altars which she strove to save.
Greatly she dar'd to prop the juster Side,
As greatly with her adverse Fate comply'd,
Did all that Heaven could ask, resign'd and dy'd;
Dy'd for the Land for which she wish'd to live,
And gain'd that Liberty she cou'd not give.
Oh, happy People! of this fav'rite Isle,
On whom so many better Angels smile;
For you, kind Heav'n new Blessings still supplies,
Bids other Saints, and other Guardians rise:
For you, the fairest of her Sex is come,
Adopts our Britain, and forgets her Home.
For Truth and You, the Heroine declines
Austria's proud Eagles, and the Indian Mines.
What Sense of such a Bounty can be shown!
But Heav'n must make the vast Reward its own,
And Stars shall join to make her future Crown.
Your Gratitude, with ease may be express'd;
Strive but to be, what she would make you, blest'd.
Let not vile Faction vex the vulgar Ear
With fond Surmise, and false affected Fear:
Confirm but to yourselves the given Good;
'Tis all she asks, for all she has bestow'd.
Such was our great Example shown to-day,
And with such Thanks our Author's Pains repay.
If from these Scenes, to guard your Faith you learn,
If for our Laws you shew a just Concern;
If you are taught to dread a Popish Reign,
Our beauteous Patriot has not dy'd in vain.

A
P R O L O G U E

T O

Lady JANE GRAY:

[Sent by an unknown Hand.]

*W*HEN waking Terrors rouse the guilty Breast,
And fatal Visions break the Murd'rer's Rest;
When Vengeance does Ambition's Fate decree,
And Tyrants bleed, to set whole Nations free;
Tho the Muse saddens each distressed Scene,
Unmov'd is ev'ry Breast, and ev'ry Face serene:
The mournful Lines no tender Heart subdue;
Compassion is to suff'ring Goodness due.
The Poet your Attention begs once more,
T' atone for Characters here drawn before:
No Royal Mistress sighs through ev'ry Page,
And breathes her dying Sorrows on the Stage:
No lovely Fair, by soft Persuasion won,
Lays down the Load of Life, when Honour's gone.
Nobly to bear the Changes of our State,
To stand unmov'd against the Storms of Fate,
A brave Contempt of Life, and Grandeur lost;
Such glorious Toils a female Name can boast.
Our Author draws not Beauty's heavenly Smile,
T' invite our Wishes, and our Hearts beguile:
No soft Enchantments languish in her Eye,
No Blossoms fade, nor sick'ning Roses die.

A

*A nobler Passion ev'ry Breast must move,
 Than youthful Raptures or the Joy of Love.
 A Mind unchang'd, superior to a Crown,
 Bravely defies the angry Tyrant's Frown ;
 The same, if Fortune sink, or mounts on high,
 Or if the World's extended Ruins lie :
 With gen'rous Scorn she lays the Sceptre down ;
 Great Souls shine brightest by Misfortunes shown :
 With patient Courage she sustains the Blow,
 And triumphs o'er Variety of Woe.
 Through ev'ry Scene the sad Distress is new :
 How well feign'd Life does represent the true !
 Unhappy Age ! who views the bloody Stain,
 But must with Tears record Maria's Reign !
 When Zeal by Doctrine flatter'd lawless Will,
 Instructed by Religion's Voice to kill.*

*Ye British Fair ! lament in silent Woe ;
 Let ev'ry Eye with tender Pity flow ;
 The lovely Form through falling Drops will seem
 Like flow'ry Shadows of the silver Stream.
 Thus Beauty, Heav'ns sweet Ornament, shall prove
 Enrich'd by Virtue and adorn'd by Love.
 Forget your Charms, fond Woman's dear Delight,
 The Fops will languish here another Night.
 No Conquest from dissembling Smiles we fear :
 She only kills, who wounds us with a Tear.*

F I N I S.



